

House Beautiful

LIVE IN IT AND LOVE IT

965 BRILLIANT IDEAS FOR EVERY ROOM

STORAGE MADE SIMPLE
Small buys that make a big difference

REAL-LIFE MAKEOVERS

Open-plan kitchen
Bright, light attic bedroom
Streamlined bathroom

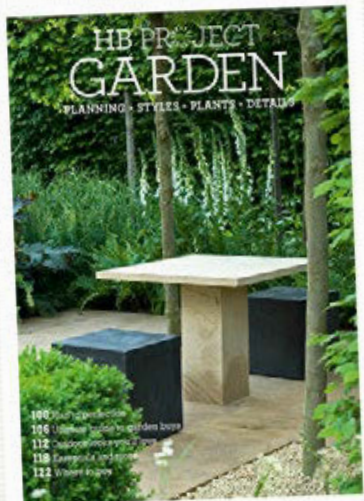
DONNA HAY
Delicious summer recipes

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Do it in a day, a weekend or a week

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Welcome

PHOTOGRAPH OLIVER GORDON



WITH TWO BANK HOLIDAYS ahead we're well and truly into the season of decorating, DIY and gardening – and this issue is packed with inspiration and advice on all sorts of projects.

If you want to have a quick blast and revamp a neglected corner, see Quick! Decorate! on p66. Whether you've got a

weekend, a week or just a day to tackle anything from updating a headboard to refreshing your walls, we'll help you achieve a fabulous quick fix.

If you want to take on something bigger have a look at Jo and Alistair Richards' north London renovation (see p60), where a dark basement was transformed into a stunning and practical light-filled room. And if, like them, you've completed a project, why not share your story with us by entering our Renovation of the Year Competition? You could win a sofa, bed or more, all from DFS. See p64.

For me this is a month of family birthdays and sitting outside to enjoy the papers and breakfast on a Sunday morning. The daffodils and cherry blossom are starting to fade, but there's new life in the borders and the grass is still a lovely deep, fresh green. We were lucky to move into a home with an established garden but if you're starting from scratch our HB Project Garden Guide (p99) is for you. It's compiled by our expert Homes and Gardens Editor Denise Brock, who says, 'With a bit of thought and a lot of hard work anyone can transform their outdoor space into something wonderful'. Follow her advice and do send us your photos of the finished result!

We've been busy meeting lots of you at the Ideal Home Show in Olympia, London. Now we're on our way to Glasgow (see p151) and Manchester. Come and say hello and take a look at our collection of custom-built, modular House Beautiful Homes. See more at housebeautiful.co.uk. Enjoy this wonderful month!



Julia and the House Beautiful Homes team at the factory: (l-r) Futureform's Steve Barrett; Gareth Bridge from South Bank Architects; Phil Goodson, also from Futureform. Find out more on p58

Julia

Julia Goodwin, Editor
Follow me on twitter
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Favourite buys for May

Look out for florals, **METALLIC TOUCHES** and geometrics



2



3



5



4

1 Find sumptuous comfort on the Lazy **armchair**, £1,505; **sofa** and **ottoman**, £4,418; all Calligaris
2 Sebastian Conran Universal **tea set**, on a sculpted beech wood tray, Universal Expert
3 Floral hummingbird **cushion** from the

cheerful Amazilia range, £45, Harlequin
4 Teasles **bedding set** in Dove Grey, from £10 for a pillowcase, Secret Linen Store
5 Chrome camera-style **diner pendant light**, £195, from the Holly Willoughby range at Bhs

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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Cover photograph
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*Our cover stories are
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Don't miss

THIS
MONTH



HB PROJECT GARDENS

Create the garden of your dreams with the help of this 24-page section



WIN THIS FABULOUS BED

Send in your makeovers and you could win fantastic furniture prizes from DFS



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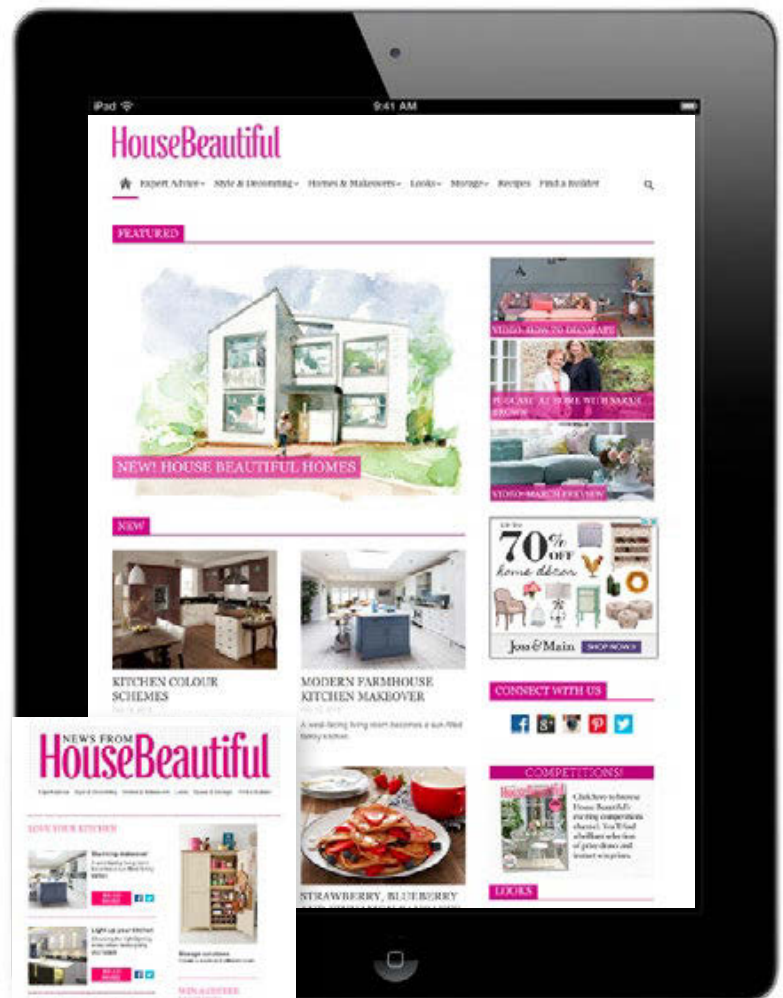
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STAR
LETTER



INDIVIDUAL TOUCH

I've recently moved into a lovely Victorian terraced house and am enjoying making it my own. Painting has been fun, but the best bit has been using wallpaper to give furniture an update. I recently found a shelf with hooks (pictured above) and painted it green, then cut out the patterns in my favourite wallpaper and stuck them on to give it a quick update. It now sits proudly in my hallway for all to see.

Briony Standley, via email

That's a great idea. We've sourced this distinctive Airfix London wallpaper (above) from victoriaeggs.co.uk, which would also work well if cut out and attached to furniture pieces. Ed

WHEEL IT ON

My kitchen is my entertaining area, so I was really interested in your feature *Island Life* (March 2015). It made me realise that with an island unit, preparing a meal and chatting to guests would be possible. I've found a lovely kitchen island on lockable wheels, which has lots of storage, and am hoping to create a space that works hard!

Josephine Drurie, Ewloe, Flintshire

RETRO STYLE

Seeing the 'before' photo in *Fit for a Family* (March 2015) made me laugh. We extended our kitchen and, as fans of the retro style, we found a 1970s kitchen on eBay identical to the one that the Weeks family had taken out of their home. A perfect example of how one man's trash is another man's treasure!

Lisa Redsull-Green, Hastings, East Sussex



FIRST-TIME BUYER

Now that we've graduated and have full-time jobs, my boyfriend and I are in the process of buying our first home. It's a daunting task but reading how Jessica turned her new build into a beautiful contemporary home in *A Perfect Start* (March 2015) has spurred us on!

Leonie Hexman, Denbigh, Denbighshire

SAFETY FIRST

We rented out our house during a three-month trip to New Zealand to visit our son, and on our return smelled gas so immediately called an engineer out. It took them 24 hours to find the leak, which was actually outside! They said a new joint in the pipework had been leaking for two years. It turned out that our friend who'd been renting from us had no sense of smell and hadn't detected anything. Thank goodness there wasn't an explosion!

Rick Hendon, Ruthin, Denbighshire
*You had a lucky escape, Rick!
For help in guarding against gas and carbon monoxide poisoning visit housebeautiful.co.uk and search 'poisoning'.

SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We are so grateful to Becky from Garden Buildings Direct in Newark. She went out of her way to arrange an earlier delivery of a new shed for us, much sooner than the anticipated delivery date, to fit in with our landscape gardener's schedule. This made the whole process run a lot more smoothly. She really is a star.

Rebecca Atkinson, Horsbarnham, West Sussex

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WIN THIS

Our star letter writer wins £100 to spend on Craig & Rose paint. Other printed letters win £50 to spend on Craig & Rose paint (01383 740011; craigandrose.com).



From our Facebook page... The dark taupe and white kitchen is perfect, says Cassandra Roberts on our post about kitchen colour schemes



From our Twitter feed... Our Matte Cotton Shallow Casserole has been named by @HB as one of its 100 Best Buys! @LeCreusetUK



From Julia... Chic tableware collection from Sebastian Conran at Universal Expert. Design technology for lifestyle ideas amazing! @JuliaHouseBED

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WHAT'S HOT

GREEN LEAVES

Add botanical style to your walls with this bold Go Green **wallpaper** from the Daily Details range, £30 a sq metre, Mr Perswall. Serve a jug of homemade lemonade outdoors on this Botanical tray, £19.50, Marks & Spencer



‘Bold leaf patterns create a stylish focal point – soften the look with woods, white elements and glass.’

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES,
INTERIORS EDITOR

TEMPERATE ZONE

Blur the boundaries between outside and in with a selection of Victorian glasshouse-inspired accessories



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1 Introduce period charm with this shapely, luted wood decorative **finial**, £102, Rowen & Wren 2 Sandberg's Raphaela print **cushion case**, £33, would bring instant uplift to a neutral sofa 3 Update a desk with this wood and metal table **lamp**, £115, Cox and Cox 4 Double up on storage with this large Baskettwin **basket**, £95, Tine K Home 5 Fill the Botanical green **vase** with pussy willow or blossom branches for a stunning table centrepiece, £16.95, Grand Illusions 6 Stack pot plants on this **A-Frame**, £35, Sainsbury's, for a glorious display 7 For an added twist hang botanical wallpaper in the inside of this Marseille **cabinet**, £995, Alexander & Pearl 8 You could use this small **tree table**, £59.95, Nordic House, as a footstool 9 Bring pattern into your living room with the Iggy **armchair** in Savory On White Feathers, £720, sofa.com

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DESIGN NEWS

From vibrant cushions to fabulous furniture, find a wealth of ideas for your home

3 of the best...

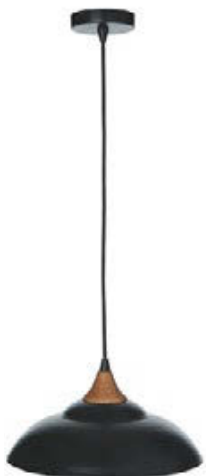
METAL PENDANT LIGHTS



Aerial metal ceiling light in Green, £40, Habitat



BB1 aluminium pendant in Yellow, £165, Original BTC



Monaco ceiling pendant, £59, Marks & Spencer

WORDS JULIA EVANS

HIT THE TILES

Like the idea of a tiled feature wall? Get the look without all the hard work – Loose Petals, one of two new striking designs from Graham and Green's wallpaper collection, will do the job for you. It's £175 a roll.



NEW LOOKS



FEATHERED FRIENDS

Spring is in the air so bring the outside in with these delightful cushions by Sarah Campbell, one of the founding members of iconic design duo Collier Campbell. The Speckles (top) and Robin cushions are part of her Calico Birds collection. £47.50 each, Sarah Campbell Designs.

HOT PICKS



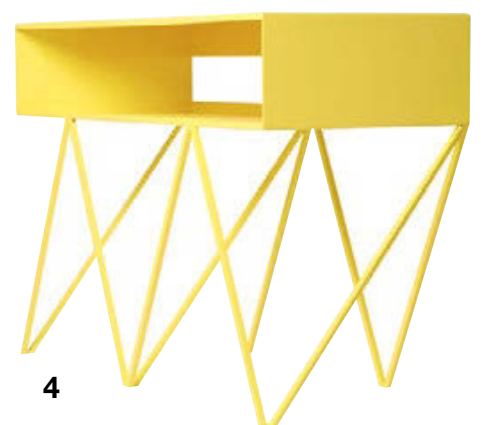
1 WHAT A DOLL Line this cute set of pretty pastel-dipped wooden nesting dolls on your mantelpiece. They're quirky and handcrafted right here in the UK. £45, Sketch.inc at Etsy.

2 COMMUNITY CROCKERY You can't help but smile when you set eyes on the Familjen range of tableware by Swedish designer Sandra Isaksson – it's all inspired by her idyllic Nordic upbringing. Coffee pot, £60, Unique & Unity.



3 BIRDS ON A BLANKET This chenille Shore Birds blanket designed by Lotta Glave and Bengt Lindberg is so soft you'll want to wrap yourself up in it. £126, Northlight Homestore.

4 SIMPLY FUNCTIONAL If you like minimal design in a bright colour, you'll love this Robot Too sideboard made from powder-coated steel. It's also available in white and a dark blue if you want something more subtle. £445, &New.



FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

BARGAIN NEWS

A round-up of the hottest homewares – all at great prices



BOTTLED BASKETWARE

Light up a bedside or living room table with this funky Harriet White Wash lamp, £24.99, Dunelm, with a wicker base and cotton shade.

Treat yourself...



...to one of Katy Leigh's characterful ceramic plates made from china sourced in Stoke-on-Trent. Love Birds plate, £24, Unique and Unity.



NEW IN

FLOWER POWER

Inspired by the painterly florals trend, Marks & Spencer has produced this eye-catching and cheerful Hallie Damson floral cotton bedlinen (left), from £39.50 for a single set. The Portabella floral cushion (above) in the same colourway, looks fabulous against a plain white background and costs £15.

ACCENT PIECES



1 FUN FACTOR

Bring pastel brights into the kitchen with these great-value tins featuring colourful birds. They cost from just £1, Tiger.

2 TOP TABLE

Add a dash of navy or teal to your breakfast table setting with these smart two-tone House bowls, £3.50, John Lewis.



3 SLEEP IN STYLE

Beat the blues with this sublime Santorini blue ombre polycotton bedding, £14.99 for a single duvet set, Bhs.

4 SIMPLE STORAGE

Keep kitchen or bathroom bits and bobs neatly stashed away in these smart woven bamboo baskets, £10 for two, Sainsbury's.



Vero furniture collection - Design by Kurt Merki Jr.

DETAIL. LOVE.

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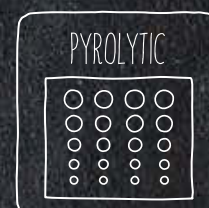
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ON TREND



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NEW FOLKLORE

This simply stylish look combines modern design with a hint of tradition

1 Hang The Contemporary Home's red enamel pendant **light**, £70, over your table for a fab focal point 2 Its pattern may look modern, but the Hayward woven day **cushion**, £82, Cushtom, was made in a British mill where craftsmen have been weaving textiles since 1720 3 Team the J110 **chair** with bench seating for an eclectic feel, £217, nest.co.uk 4 From American company Lexington, the red Graphic cotton **throw**, £139, has a classic design 5 Tea time? Serve it in the enamel **teapot**, £19.99, Falcon 6 Made from sustainable mango wood, these beautiful Artisan French **bowls** deserve to be on display, £12.95 each, Nkuku at Occa Home 7 Your coffee cups have a new home – the Croft collection **mug tree**, £20, John Lewis 8 **Seating or side table** – you decide. Stool One, £195, Another Country 9 The Basic **mug** is handmade in a family workshop, £14, Folklore

WORDS LUCY BIRCH

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE



BE INSPIRED AT HARVEYS

Lackington sofa shown with the Islington lamp table.

harveysfurniture.co.uk

Harveys
the furniture store

DECO UPDATE

WORDS AND STYLING KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES. PHOTOGRAPH PAVEL DORNAK FOR HEARST STUDIOS



HOOKED ON STYLE

Hang up your belongings on a stylish and space-saving peg

1 These miniature works of art feature a landscape design, £15 each, **Chocolate Creative** **2** Made from mango wood and leather, this button style, £11.95, **Ruby Roost**, is fun and beautifully crafted **3** Form follows function with a simple yet stylish galvanised rail, £18, **Store** **4** This powder-coated Saturn wall hook has a funky mid-century vibe and is a steal at £12, **Quince** **5** Get hung-up over this colourful and contemporary Umbra flip hook, £25, **Red Candy** **6** In tan leather and exposed iron, the Equestrian is classically chic, £24, **Anthropologie** **7** Coatrack City by Tas-Ka is the perfect addition to an urban pad, £34.54, **clippings.com** **8** Opt for a versatile W frame with a striking black-painted finish; Brooklyn five-knob wall rack, £35, **John Lewis** **9** Sculptural and sleek, the Ambrose Butterfly, £30, **Heal's**, doubles as a coat hook and a shelf **10** With a fresh white finish, the Ottis, £30, **Habitat**, is simply smart **11** Bring the outdoors in with the Stripped Maple Tree hook, £12, **Rockett St George** **12** Funk it up with the coloured ball rack, £150, **Out There Interiors**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



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Kitchen featured is Tewkesbury Framed Skye and Stone



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Emma Bridgewater

A NATURAL CONTRAST

Combine handcrafted woods and ceramics with shades of chalk and charcoal to create a cool, contemporary look

Living colour

Let greenery add natural hues – plant in terracotta pots for a touch of the prairie



Rough & smooth SOFTEN THE
SHARP ANGLES OF MODERN PIECES
WITH ROUGHLY HEWN WOODS, RAW
LINEN FABRICS AND A SENSUOUS RUG



CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Picture perfect

Mix black and white prints to keep the scheme muted

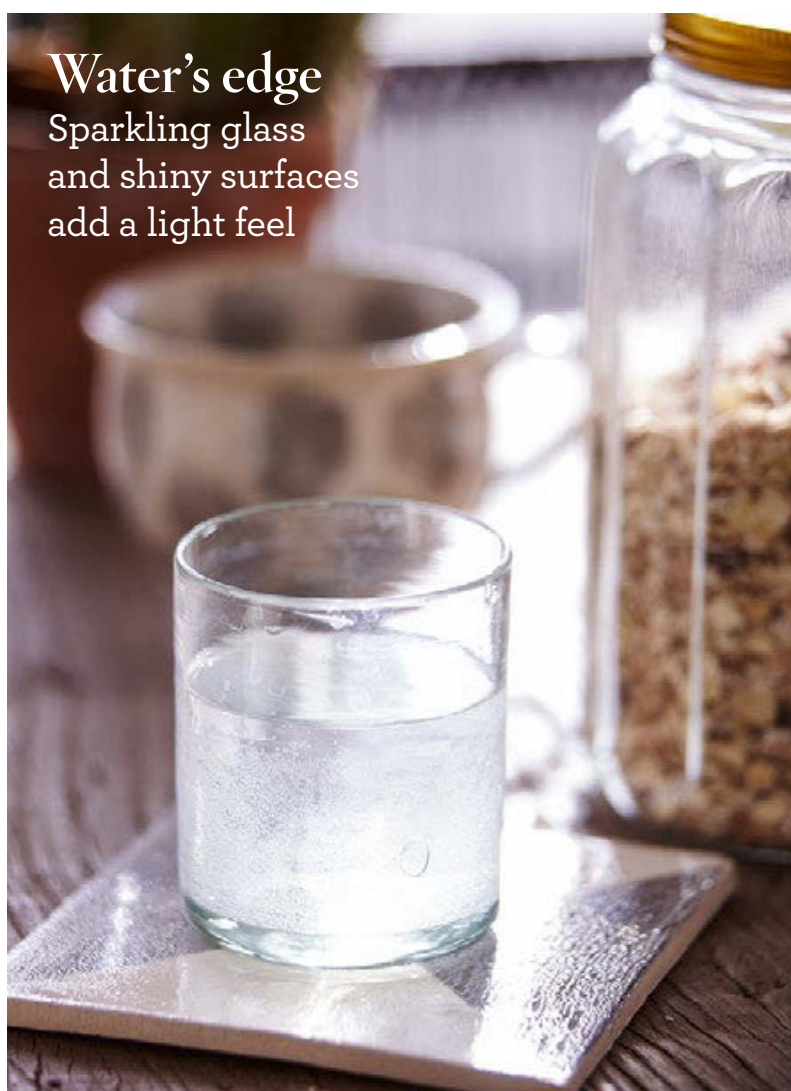


Green scheme

Handmade accessories in citrus green and white look vibrant and fresh

Water's edge

Sparkling glass and shiny surfaces add a light feel





Line drawing

CREATE IMPACT ON
A LARGE WALL WITH
AN INTRICATE
GRAPHIC PATTERN



Rustic elements

A cool concrete surface provides the backdrop for glazed tiles, ceramic bowls and wooden utensils

Industrial luxe STARK
WALLS, MATT GREYS AND
SHINY COPPERS LOOK MORE
RELAXED AND WELCOMING
WHEN TEAMED WITH A
RECLAIMED TIMBER TABLE
AND GENTLY CURVED
MISMATCHED RATTAN
AND WOOD CHAIRS





Fading out SOFT VELVETS
AND FRESH WHITE BEDLINEN ARE
SET AGAINST A FADED GEOMETRIC
HEADBOARD AND WHITEWASHED
TIMBER PANNELLING FOR A CALM
BEDROOM RETREAT



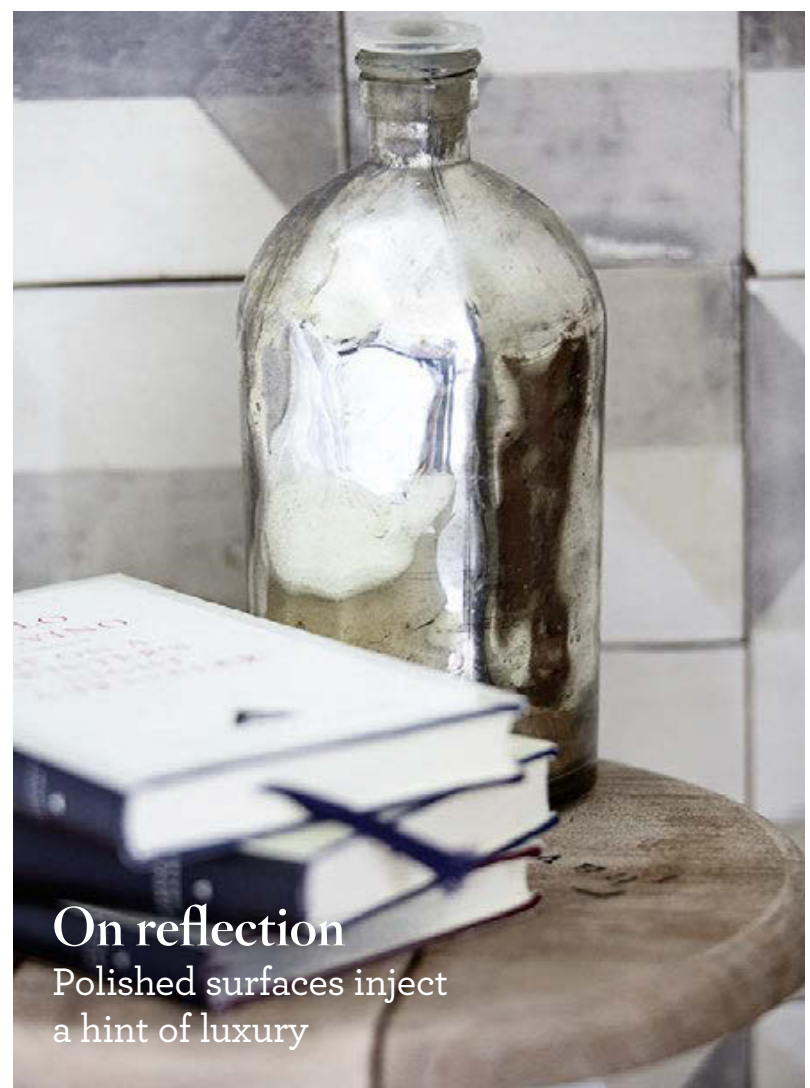
Monochrome chic

Textured, patterned fabrics in shades of black and white add interest to a cosy lounge daybed



Branch line

An unusual stool and zigzag fabric add style



On reflection

Polished surfaces inject a hint of luxury

Where to buy everything

Living colour



Living colour

Linea Rhonda concrete and copper cone **pendant light**, £70, House of Fraser. Scrumpy **table**, £695, Loaf

Rough & smooth

Margot **sofa** in Pebble, £840, sofa.com. Burnt Sling **chair**, £350; Grey Gradient wool **rug**, £260; both French Connection. **Stool**, £140, Heal's. Workstead **floor lamp**, £650, Another Country. Woven **baskets**, £10 for two, Sainsbury's. Linen **bench cushion**, £80, Design Vintage. **Pom pom blanket**, £140, Bohemia. Monochrome **cushion** (on sling chair), £38, Design Vintage. **Plants**, Ikea

Rough & smooth



Picture perfect

Sideboard Two, £2,475, Another Country. **Pictures on sideboard (l-r)**: The Cat by Picasso, framed in Ronda Matt Black, £109.99, art.co.uk. Fin II by Richard Roberts, £40 (unframed), The Calm Gallery. Framed Butterfly, Papilio Dardanus, £79, Rockett St George. Train Despatcher by HC Merrill framed in Box Stem Black, £139.99, art.co.uk. Floral Negative print, £35, Marks & Spencer. Cuba **bowl**, £12, Heal's. **Drip print vase**, £35, Marks & Spencer. Aztec **rug**, £110, Design Vintage. Geronimo Gunmetal **chair**, £290 for two, Loaf. Two Tone **zinc vase**, £35, French Connection

Picture perfect



Green scheme

Plant pot, find similar at Anthropologie. Small Maiko **bowl** in Ivory, £10, Folklore. Have a Seat **stool**, £69.95, Design Vintage

Water's edge

Glazed Churriana **tile**, £12.90, Bert & May. Reclaimed glass **tumbler**, Aya, £2.77, Nkuku is similar. Glass **jar** with lid, £6.99, H&M

Green scheme



Water's edge



Line drawing



Line drawing

Herringbone **wallpaper**, £59 for a 10m roll, Ferm Living. **Seating Bench** Two, £695, Another Country. Whitewash **coat hook**, £45; Helene standing **baskets**, £18.50 for two; all Rose and Grey. Bruges mini messenger **bag**, £30; Arrow Ikat **scarf** (on hook), £22; both Bohemia. Wax cotton **explorer travel bag**, £149, Barbour at John Lewis. **Small basket**, £7.99, H&M. Savannah leather **journal**, £24.95, Nkuku. **Scarf in back basket**, stylist's own. **Scarf in front basket**, Moroccan Tile scarf, £16, Bohemia

Branch line

Out of the Dark **stool**, £140, Heal's. Seagrass **basket**, £23.50, Design Vintage. **Stripe basket**, £12.99, H&M. **Peg rail**, £41, Scumble Goosie. **Diamond bath towel**, £10, Sainsbury's. **Knitted cloth**, £20, Folklore. **Rosewood and Vetiver hand wash**, £21.50; **iron bowl**, £16.95, Nkuku

Rustic elements



Rustic elements

Reclaimed **chapatti board**, £34.95; Dish mango wood **ladle**, £24.95; Mali ceramic **bowl**, £14.95; Mali ceramic coffee **mug**, £9.95; both Nkuku. Storage **jar**, £3; Simple side **plate**, £22; both Folklore. Mango wooden **spatula**, £5.95; jar **spoon**, £3.95; bamboo **forks**, £7.95 for 12; reclaimed **pizza board**, £25; **marble board**, £24; **ramekin**, £17.50 for four; all Design Vintage. Wooden **pestle and mortar**, £24, Urbanara. Cuba black **striped bowl**, £12, Heal's. Maiko **teapot**, £34, Folklore. Glazed **tiles**, from £6.70, Bert & May

Industrial luxe

Scrumpy **table**, £695, Loaf. **Rattan chairs** (at front), £165 each, Rockett St George. Geronimo **Gunmetal chair** (left), £290 for two, Loaf. Canteen **Utility chair** (right) by Very Good and Proper, £179, Clippings. Glass-fronted **cabinet**, £315, Graham and Green. Serengeti **rug**, £175; Rhonda **pendant lights**, £70 each; all House of Fraser. Trulli **creamer**, £24, Anthropologie. Spotted **mug**, £8, Marks & Spencer. Glass **jar**, £6.99, H&M. **Pizza board**, £25, Design Vintage. **Tiles**, from £8.88, Bert & May. Keiller marmalade **pot**, £12.50, Dee Puddy. Black **bottle**, £12, Rose and Grey. Cuba black striped **bowls**, £12 each, Heal's. Small Maiko **bowl** in Ivory, £10; Maiko **teapot**, £34; both Folklore. Mali **bowls**, from £14.95; Mali **dinner plates**, £34.95 each; all Nkuku

Industrial luxe



Fading out



Fading out

Headboard in Smink Things After Lowry tile wallpaper, £160 for a 10m roll, Rockett St George. Have a Seat **stools** (as bedside tables), £69.95 each; Round **wicker chair** (just seen), £178; **striped cushion** on chair, £25; all Design Vintage. **Rug**, £14.99, H&M. Monaco pendant **light**, £59, Marks & Spencer. **Birdcage T-light**, £5.95, Nkuku. Grey sand **hourglass**, £8, Sainsbury's. Bindi **lantern**, £9.95; Mali **jug**, £19.95; both Nkuku. Vintage **spools**, £5.95 each; Antique **tin tile**, £16; all Dee Puddy. **Small Maiko bowl**, £10, Folklore. **Tile**, £12.90, Bert & May. Mali ceramic **bowl**, £14.95, Nkuku. Linen **duvet cover**, £170; **pillowcases**, £30 each; all The Linen Works. **Cushions (from back)**: stripe cushions, £38 each, Design Vintage. Chevron diamond print, £35, House of Fraser. Linen ombre, £30, French Connection. Velvet linen **throw** in Navy/Natural, £195, Niki Jones

Monochrome chic



Monochrome chic

Pause **daybed**, £795, Heal's. **Curtains** made up in Kali, £28 a metre, Scion. **Cushions (l-r)**: Albers cover, £90, Niki Jones. Geometric pom pom, £25, Marks & Spencer. Crewel Stitch monochrome cushion, £65, House of Fraser. Cotton stripe pom pom **blanket**, £115, Bohemia. **Book**, £22, Anthropologie. **Mug**, £8, Marks & Spencer

Branch line



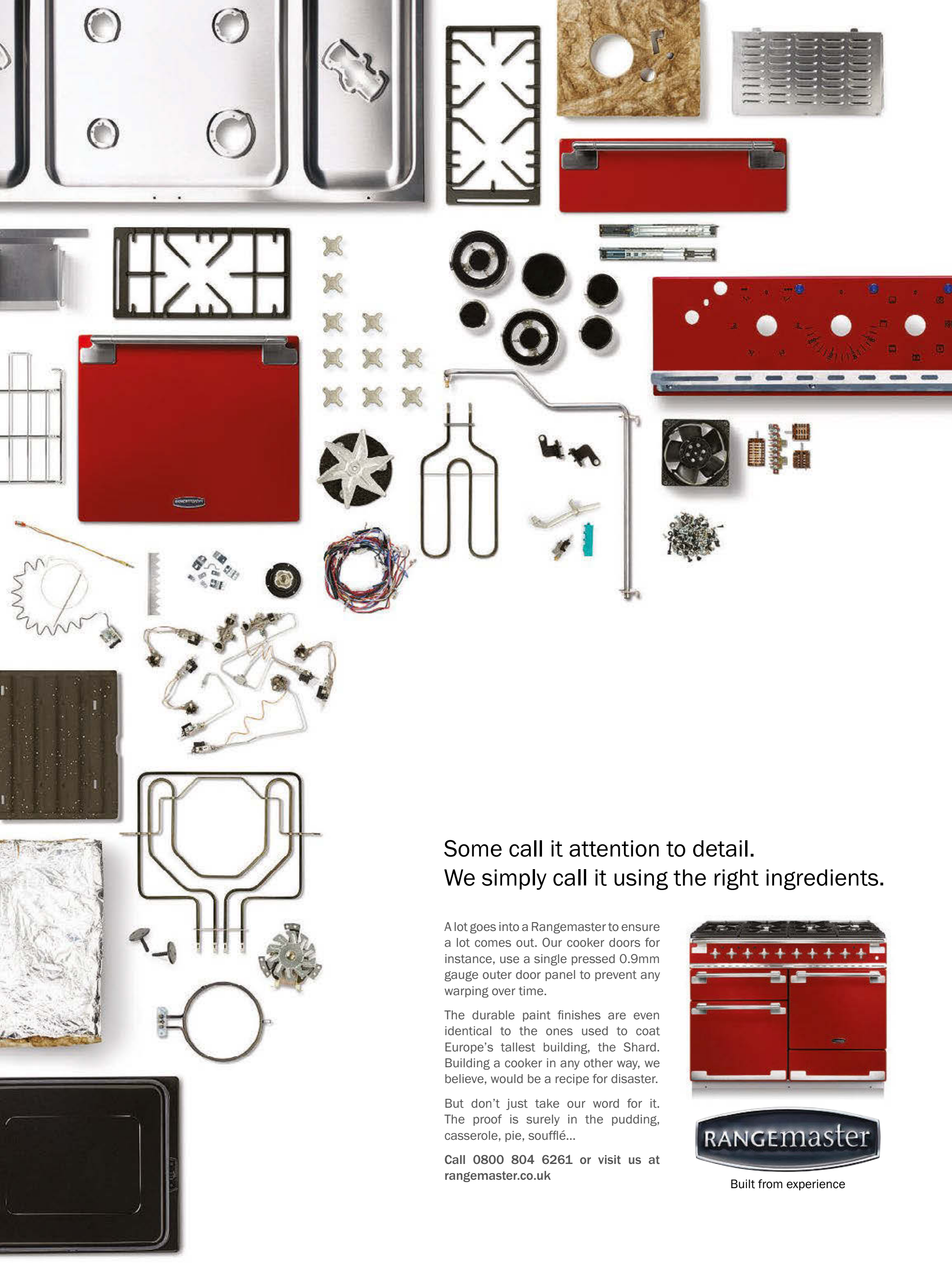
On reflection



On reflection

For similar metallic vase, Gold bottle **vase**, £49, Rockett St George **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**



Some call it attention to detail.
We simply call it using the right ingredients.

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Built from experience

Meet the CERAMIC MAKERS

Pottery experts reveal how ceramics can transform your home with subtle designs in soft colours and distinctive, patterned pieces



Earthenware,
from £6 for a
sideplate, Habitat



UNIQUE DESIGNS

KIM FINDLAY

With a background in both fashion and homewares, Kim joined Habitat as an accessories buyer in 2010.

INSPIRATION I travel extensively for work to countries including Vietnam, Thailand, India and Portugal, so I'm always interacting with artists and craftspeople who use a variety of skills, techniques and materials. The travel is inspirational in itself as I'm constantly discovering new ideas and ways of working, but I've also stumbled across products in workshops that spark something in my imagination. Last year I found a fantastic piece hidden at the back of a workshop in Vietnam that became the inspiration for our Santiago blue earthenware jug object.

TRENDS Customers want products that look organic, individual and not mass-produced. It's important to know a craftsman has created a piece, whether that's because it has a hand-finished moulding or has had a reactive (variegated) glaze applied. We've made this the focus for the new collection (left), with both tabletop ceramics and vases, and the response has been incredible.

FAVOURITE The Stria vases are my favourite because they are so simple in design but make such impact through their strong colours and the softness of their matt finish. In contrast I also love the new Cadiz ceramic planters on which we've used a reactive glaze on a stripe pattern. It's created an unusual look and something completely unique. **TIP** Don't be afraid to use ceramic vases as objects. Mix heights, finishes and textures to create real standout points of interest. At home my shelves are filled with collections of ceramics and I'm planning to install open shelving in my kitchen this year to display stacks of crockery and glassware. You can change the feel of a room just by moving ceramics around – plus it's an immediate talking point at dinner parties!



Aqua dining range, from £2.50 for a bowl, Sainsbury's



ECLECTIC TASTES

LAURA CARTNER

After studying ceramics and working at Wedgwood, Laura joined Sainsbury's as a cook shop designer two years ago.

INSPIRATION I'm a massive fan of vintage china and retro homewares, and find inspiration from many eras, from classic to contemporary. An idea can come from anywhere. Art galleries, vintage fairs, travelling, eating out and, of course, food trends both in the UK and further afield, prompt thoughts about new product ranges. I'm also influenced by the people around me. Working with other designers from different backgrounds is really important to me as we bounce ideas off each

other. I love all ceramics and have eclectic tastes, so I really like combining modern simplicity with pieces that may be more treasured and nostalgic.

TRENDS People want to mix and match and refresh their homes easily without replacing everything, so we've become more flexible with our ranges by creating trend-driven pieces that can be combined with existing collections. Bright patterns look fabulous when they're mixed with clean white surfaces. A good example of this is the lemon-print ceramics (left) from our Country Fair range, or the Aqua range (above) as the patterned pieces can be mixed in with plain dinnerware to create a rustic, summer display.

FAVOURITE This season it has to be the Monochrome range, as it's quite different from anything we've done before. I love the subtle textures and the combination of patterns. The serving pieces can easily be layered with white dinnerware to create a contemporary, stylish look.

TIP Mixing classic collections with trend and statement pieces is a great way to bring a fresh new look to your tabletop or your entire kitchen, and it's budget friendly. You'll be creating an eclectic look that can be updated regularly simply by dropping in new pieces and combining colour, texture and pattern.

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Handmade pottery,
from £8.50 for an
egg cup, Susie
Watson Designs



NATURAL BEAUTY

SUSIE WATSON

Gorgeous enough to be kept out on display, the pottery made by Susie Watson Designs is testament to Susie's belief that art should not be confined to the walls.

INSPIRATION I have an obsessive love of the countryside, seaside and the English garden. The colours and flowers are my main inspiration. In nature,

colours never seem to clash and I try and replicate this in my ranges. My pottery was also originally inspired by old Cornishware. I have always loved the texture of the clay spots and the simplicity of the design.

TRENDS I think people have become less formal and come round to the idea of mixing and matching different designs and colours. I find the prospect of a whole set of one pattern pretty dull.

FAVOURITE I really like our Honey Bees design. From day one, I just fancied all the stripes. It looked a bit like a beehive so I added the bees and a few simple hearts for good measure.

TIP When setting the table with china for a formal occasion or a special lunch, limit yourself to just two patterns. I think it looks nicer and less busy if the main plates and sideplates all match.



POWERFUL WORDS

EMMA BRIDGEWATER

It's 30 years since Emma set up her pottery company, which has made millions of mugs, plates, bowls and cups and saucers. She's now branching out into textiles and wallpaper.

INSPIRATION Real life and real places, from my husband Matthew's vegetable garden to the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Architecture in Oxford. The Black Toast design came about after meeting a lady in New York called Mrs Mottahedeh who gave me a plate sold in aid of the suffragette movement emblazoned with the slogan 'Votes for Women'. It made me realise how powerful writing on pottery can be.

TRENDS I'm not sure how much we are led by fashions, as I think our early designs still feel recognisably like what we would do today. For example, the Fig platter I designed in 1987 is still in our collection. The biggest recent success has been the Shellfish pattern (below) decorated with Matthew's watercolours of crabs and lobsters. Watch this space for more fish to follow.

FAVOURITE Our new cup shape is inspired by a Victorian cup of my mum's that had lost its handle. It has a lovely fine quality to it that makes it feel light and nice to use.

TIP Juxtapose unexpected patterns – a kitsch plate depicting Marilyn Monroe alongside a 19th-century pink lustre cup and saucer, for example. If you love the components it's never hard to make them work together.

**Fish and Shellfish plates,
£39.95 for a set of two,
Emma Bridgewater**



THREE TO WATCH



TIP Multitask your ceramics, make them a part of your everyday world. My mugs and jugs are filled with paintbrushes and crayons for the kids

FEEL-GOOD FEATURES

FENELLA SMITH

Although her degree is in fashion, Fenella has always had a passion for ceramics, which stemmed from her grandmother's collection.

INSPIRATION I had a hugely fun childhood spent outside with lots of pets, hence the strong animal theme in my products.

TRENDS People want pieces that are well made and that last, but that also bring a little life and light into their homes. I have designed our jugs with versatility in mind; the pouring jug, for example, has no handle so it fits well into the fridge door but also looks pretty holding some spring daffodils.

FAVOURITE I'm thrilled with the Bicycles range, which my brother Greg drew.



Animal collection, from £14.50 for a Mini mug, Fenella Smith



TIP I love feature walls made up of patterned plates. And I'd pop one of my Tick Tock plate clocks in the mix for fun

ARTIST'S TOUCH

RORY DOBNER

After studying fine art at Central St Martin's School of Art & Design, Rory made a living as an artist, working all over the world. He set up his ceramics and illustration business with his wife in 2011.

INSPIRATION I'm addicted to rooting through piles of junk, whether at a car-boot sale, a house clearance or a forbidding-looking antiques shop. I love pieces with a history and my studio is full of curiosities.

TRENDS Being made in England myself and loving all things British, I'm a great fan of animals, especially cats and dogs. In terms of design, they're hugely popular.

FAVOURITE My Cat Monocle teapot and fine bone china teacup and saucer set.



Plates and Tick Tock clock, from £36, Rory Dobner



TIP If it's one particular colour that you want to feature, make a small display. If you like lots of colour, try a larger number of pieces but all in the same style


DELICATE SHAPES

SUE URE

British ceramicist Sue moved to France in 1994 and her work has been greatly influenced by her adopted home.

INSPIRATION I enjoy living in the country and I'm sure that the uncluttered landscape has an influence on what I make. Shapes stand out, whether they're trees, buildings or mountains, and clear-cut forms are an important element in my work.

TRENDS The current interest in mid-century design strikes a chord with me. I grew up with some great Finnish Arabia tableware.

FAVOURITE My most recent glaze, which is tangerine. I'm amazed at how it has added a new dimension and vibrancy to the existing softer colours in my glaze palette. 



Ceramics, from £18 for an espresso mug, Sue Ure Ceramics



SEATING AREA
Elaine relaxes with Colin, her beloved English pointer. The Aboriginal painting was bought in Australia

Imaginatively CRAFTED

Australian architecture and art have influenced the design and decor of this house-come-gallery in Cornwall

WORDS ALICE WESTGATE PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL RYAN-GOFF



MEZZANINE

A section of the mezzanine is made from glass to allow light to flood down onto the dining space below. Danish mid-century leather sofas, bought from Apollo Antiques in Ashburton, furnish the area

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ISLAND UNIT
A carpenter at Bradburys built the kitchen island. 'We didn't want it to be a monolith,' says Elaine



DINING AREA
Beyond the antique table is a slate chimney breast. The colours in the stone reflect the shades used elsewhere



EXTERIOR
The house was built using Cornish stone so it would blend beautifully with its surroundings

Though it sits in a very English setting amid fields in the heart of the Cornish countryside, the design of Elaine and Barry Dye's house was inspired by living on the other side of the world. 'In 2006 we went to Australia for two years,' says Elaine. 'Until then, I'd never been a fan of open-plan design, but our flat in Sydney made me fall in love with the idea of being surrounded by space and light.' When the couple returned to England they were faced with a choice – should they pick up the reins of their old life in London or relocate to their second home in Cornwall? They decided on the latter and moved full-time to their converted barn in the village of Millbrook, not far from the sea.

Life was good, but Elaine and Barry missed the open spaces of the home they'd enjoyed in Australia so they set their sights on a plot that was for sale a little further up the hill. It was once home to a handful of agricultural buildings and plans had already been drawn up to build a house on the site. There were several advantages to the move. It

would allow the couple to live their open-plan dream, the plot had stunning views down the valley, there was plenty of space for Barry, who collects and restores vintage cars and motorbikes, to build a workshop alongside the house. And, last but not least, there was room for Elaine, whose professional background is in arts PR for the likes of the BBC and Scottish Opera, to realise a lifetime's ambition and open a contemporary craft gallery in part of the building. 'I love the Australian approach to contemporary craft, which they don't see as a poor relation to the visual arts,' says Elaine. 'When I came back to the UK I felt that many galleries and craft shops didn't present design-led craft particularly sympathetically or imaginatively.'

As luck would have it, a planning law had just been introduced that allowed former agricultural buildings on the edge of a village to be converted into residential properties as long as a small business was run from the site. 'This regulation only existed for a short period,' says Elaine, 'but it was perfect timing.' The couple bought the plot and tailored the existing plans to suit their needs. 'Our priority was to create a large living area in which everything is connected,' explains Elaine. 'The original plans had divided the main living space into three, but we altered that so we would have one large room, with a kitchen at one end, a dining table in the middle and a snug at the far end. We wanted somewhere cosy to relax and watch television, but we chose to separate the snug from the rest of the living space with open shelving rather than a solid wall to stop it feeling too enclosed.' The couple also designed a mezzanine sitting area that would be suspended above the dining table to break up the vast expanse of space. It would make the most of the views and would have a section of glass floor to keep light levels high.

Construction began in 2012 and took 15 months, during which time Barry, who works for an engineering and construction company, used his experience to manage the build of the five-bedroom house and source all manner of

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‘Our priority was to create a large living area in which everything is connected,’ SAYS ELAINE

**KITCHEN SPACE**

The island is behind the dining table so the kitchen is a very sociable place. The Alno units came from Bradburys in Exeter and the bar stools are from Calligaris




HALL
The staircase was designed by Barry to maintain the open-plan style of the interior. Limestone flooring is from Artisans of Devizes



ARTWORK
This stunning piece is by Surrey-based artist Charlotte Sale, whose work is also on show in the gallery

cutting-edge materials – from thermodynamic blocks to triple glazing. ‘The house is designed to be as low-energy as possible,’ says Elaine. ‘It’s highly insulated, has a heat-recovery system, a biomass boiler and solar photovoltaic panels. Our utility bills are unbelievably low.’

When it came to choosing paints and fabrics, the couple again looked to Australia for inspiration. ‘We didn’t want the house to be overwhelmed by colour, but it was never an option to live in an all-white shell,’ says Elaine. ‘We based the palette on an Aboriginal painting we brought back from Australia and hung above the mezzanine. It contains a lovely shade of burnt orange that we used in the snug and on the open shelving that separates it from the dining area. Used sparingly, a strong colour like this gives a real sense of warmth.’ This is balanced by lots of grey – a pale shade on the far wall of the kitchen and a darker shade on the dining chairs and pendant lights. ‘It is a formula that works well throughout the house, in summer and winter,’ says Elaine.

These cleverly chosen colours make a brilliant backdrop for the pieces of contemporary craft that creep into the house from Elaine’s gallery. ‘I only show pieces that I am passionate about and if any of my real favourites don’t sell I often buy them for myself – or persuade Barry he needs to make a purchase,’ laughs Elaine. It’s a philosophy that means the house is a beautifully successful display space as well as the perfect place to relax. ‘My aim for the gallery from the outset was to showcase the inherent beauty of contemporary crafts in a domestic setting,’ says Elaine. ‘If parts of the house feel like a gallery and the gallery feels a little bit like a home, then I’ve done my job well.’ 

● **The Byre gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, Cornwall PL10 1AJ (01752 822936; thebyregallery.co.uk).**
Visit the website for details of current exhibitions

HOW TO DISPLAY **arts and crafts**

Arrange the art in your home to beautiful effect with this advice from gallery owner Elaine

- * It’s well worth building dedicated shelving units, if you have the space and budget to do so, to show off favourite pieces.
- * Try to incorporate lighting into shelves and recesses not only to showcase your art, but also to create impact.
- * Stand items such as ceramics and glassware on glass or mirrors so that light is thrown onto the underside of the artwork – mirrors, in particular, allow you to appreciate every facet of a piece.
- * Glass responds amazingly to natural light, so consider displaying objects near a window. Some of my clients like to move glass pieces around during the day, following the light, which shows them at their very best.
- * Galleries traditionally have white walls, but a coloured backdrop can make a huge difference to your displays. Get inspiration from shades that combine well together in nature. If strong green and orange work together on a flower, they’ll work in your house.
- * Objects look fabulous displayed in groups of three or more, especially if the items are all different shapes and sizes. And don’t be afraid to mix things up – for example by showing off chunky stoneware alongside delicate glass.

MAIN BEDROOM

Primary shades on John Lewis cushions and a House of Fraser throw add zing. The wirework table was left over from an exhibition in the gallery, while the bed is by Ethnicraft

**BATHROOM**

A copper bateau bath from William Holland is the star of the show. For maximum impact, Elaine painted the wall behind it in Teal Tension by Dulux. All the other sanitaryware is by Duravit





SEATING AREA
Debbie likes to search out original pieces at auction, such as this 1950s Bertoia chair. Art Nouveau touches include the lamp and the handles on the sideboard

A HAPPY MIX

Part-Georgian, part-modern, this eclectic house has been both a renovation challenge and a source of inspiration

WORDS BEVERLEY BROWN **PHOTOGRAPHY** DOUGLAS GIBB

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LIVING ROOM

A combination of styles creates a timeless look. Harlequin's contemporary Coast wallpaper has been used below the dado rail, while its damask Venezia paper has been used above. The original Castiglioni Arco lamp was bought at auction



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Debbie Logan, 52, an interior designer, her husband Alan, also 52, an IT consultant, and two of their four children – Lucy, 16, and Toby, 18

THE PROPERTY A five-bedroom detached house in Edinburgh

PRICE £300,000

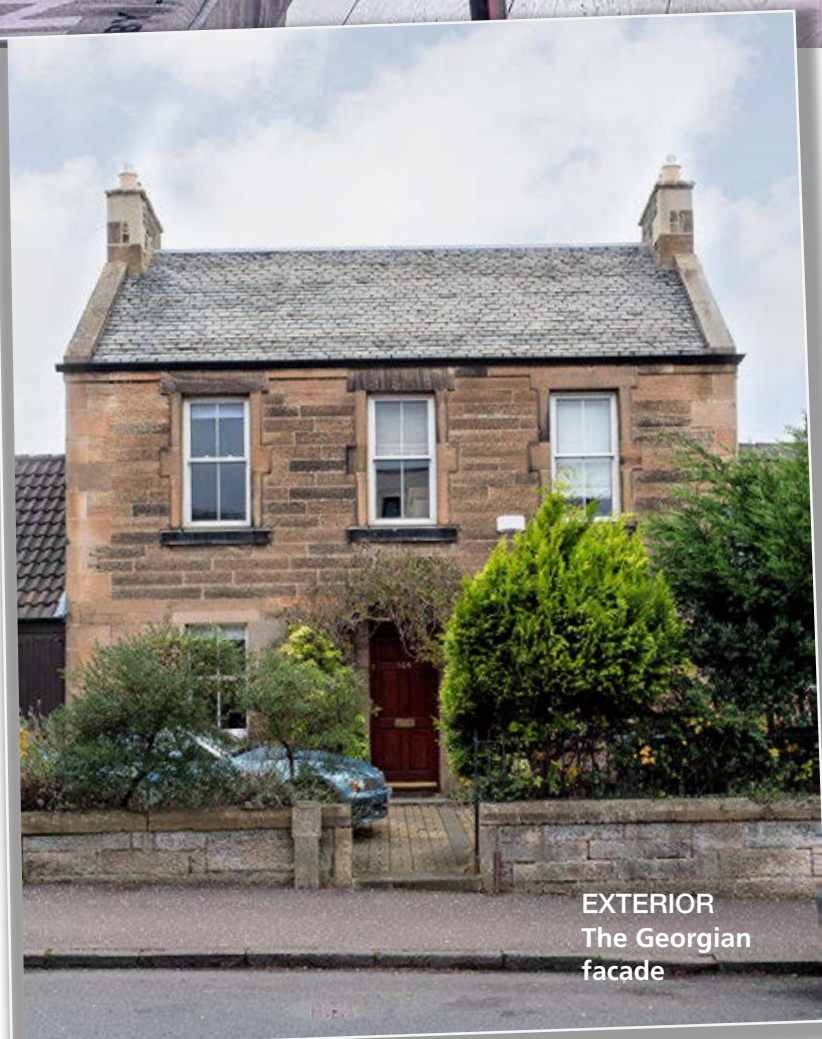
MONEY SPENT £100,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW £500,000



DINING AREA

This extension was built three years ago. Philippe Starck Ghost chairs and a lamp base painted green add colour



EXTERIOR
The Georgian
facade

Debbie Logan became an interior designer after completing a two-year Interior Architecture and Design diploma in 2007, but she'd always had an interest in the subject. 'I remember constantly rearranging my bedroom when I was a child, so perhaps that was a sign,' she says. Debbie has had plenty of opportunity to decorate her own homes – this is hers and husband Alan's tenth home, in a succession of moves always motivated by circumstances. 'We moved from Perth to Edinburgh initially and then had a number of rented places before upsizing from a flat to a house and then to gradually bigger houses as the children arrived,' she explains.

The last move was nine years ago and was prompted by a need to be closer to the centre of Edinburgh and spend less time commuting. 'As all four children were still at home then, this house had the right number of bedrooms and was in an ideal location for shops and public transport,' says Debbie. But it was the property's idiosyncratic style, which Debbie describes as 'taking quirky to a whole new level', that clinched the deal.

A house of three parts, the couple's detached villa has a pre-1800 Georgian front, a Victorian centre and a modern glass extension at the back overlooking the walled garden. The last was added three years ago when the layout was reworked to create an L-shaped, open-plan family/kitchen/dining room that's now the hub of the home. 'I prefer period properties,' says Debbie, 'and as I have eclectic tastes and like things from



different eras, the house's big mix of styles suits me to a tee.'

A fairly major upgrade was required, which included rewiring, replumbing, stripping all the walls and damp-proofing the ground floor. The couple also decided to put back fixtures that had been taken out. As the fireplace in the living room had been removed, they were delighted to discover that an oak fireplace they had purchased three houses back fitted the space perfectly. 'Living in the midst of it wasn't easy,' says Debbie, 'but there were lighter moments – the children became adept at jumping over joists.'

The couple's bedroom was also in need of some structural work. It's on the ground floor near the bathroom in what was once, in the fifties and sixties, a two-room post office building. Later it was merged with the house. 'We removed a partition wall to open it up and make one large room,' says Debbie, 'but then, one winter, the ceiling came down exposing the attic space above. We decided to turn it into a positive and added a staircase, with space-saving alternate treads, to create a mezzanine storage space.'

Clever design solutions can be found throughout the house. Original wood panelling in the hall, which had to be removed as part of the renovation work, started to split when it was being put back up. To conceal the damage, the couple's joiner suggested finishing off the top edge on either wall with a display shelf made from skirting board. 'It was a happy accident as these now make shelves for books belonging to

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



'I have eclectic tastes so the big mix of styles here suits me to a tee,' SAYS DEBBIE



HALL

Harlequin's Flint wallpaper and Clarke & Clarke's Floribunda greet visitors to the house. The high-level bookshelves were made from skirting boards


**MAIN BEDROOM**

Dulux's Almost Oyster is the perfect backdrop for the furnishings. The modern pendant is from John Lewis and the rosewood chest is a family piece

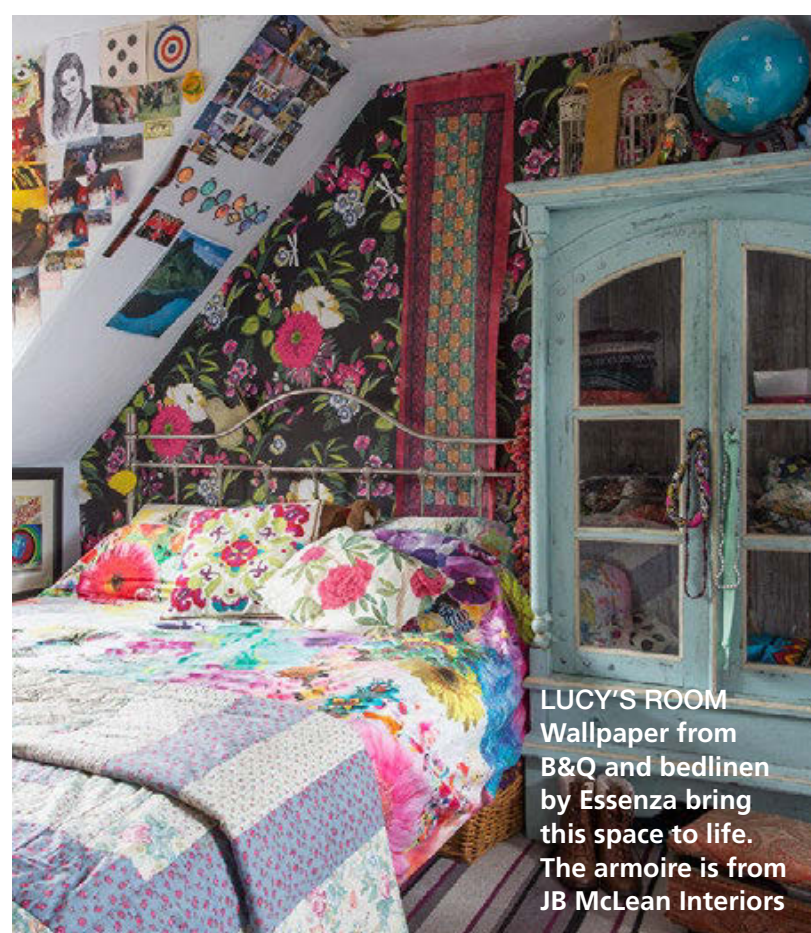
Alan and our son Toby,' says Debbie. 'They're the only ones tall enough to reach them.' Upstairs is a shower room and four more bedrooms, although here the layout does its own thing too. 'People have been known to get lost in this house,' Debbie adds, referring to all its twists and turns and rooms at different levels.

Before going back to college to train to become a designer, Debbie was employed in financial services for 20 years. She now works under licence running the only Dulux Design Service in Scotland. 'It's a good solution for me and I love being part of a network rather than just functioning on my own,' she says.

At home, Debbie takes the lead in decorating. 'Alan will offer an opinion but is very easy-going and happy to leave decisions about the house up to me. We've known each other since we were 14 and went to school together, so we work well as a team.' Debbie's style, like the house, is original. She combines subdued and bold shades with a rich mix of patterns and furniture styles, bringing the interiors to life.

Although the couple's home is a delight, Debbie has set her sights on another move. 'Alan doesn't know it yet, but as much as I love this house I don't think of it as my forever home. I harbour a secret desire to live in the centre of Edinburgh in the New Town, where everything is within walking distance. I have no urge to retire to the country.' 

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



LUCY'S ROOM
Wallpaper from B&Q and bedlinen by Essenza bring this space to life. The armoire is from JB McLean Interiors



EXTERIOR

The cottage was built in the 1880s and had no running water or electricity

IN PLAIN VIEW

With an amazing vista of the Atlantic, this remote cottage has an interior inspired by the surrounding landscape

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE

When Clodagh Barry first went to look at this tiny stone cottage, which is perched on a cliff on the west coast of Ireland, it was lit by gas lamps and had no running water or electricity, but she still thought it was beautiful. 'It was a stunning location and a very special place. The house was off the beaten track, yet it wasn't too far from neighbours and friends,' she says.

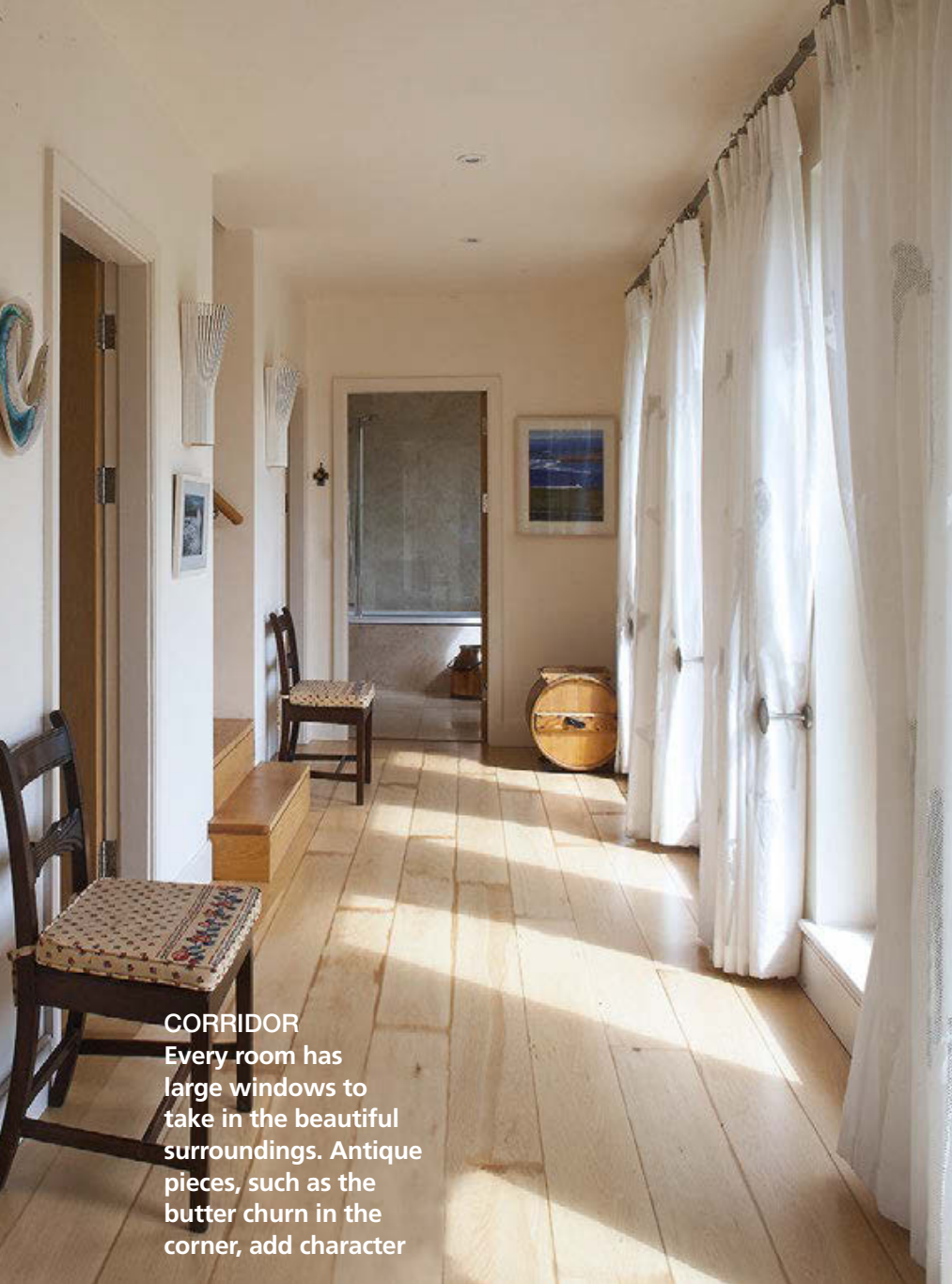
Clodagh's love of the area was instilled in her by her father. He had bought a small cottage in County Clare in the seventies, which the family enjoyed as a holiday home for 30 years. Staying there during her childhood prompted Clodagh's enthusiasm for the raw beauty of the west coast. She very much wanted to live in the area and when she spotted the cottage in 2000 she saw a chance to realise her dream.

At that time the property wasn't actually for sale, but eight months after making her interest known, she was contacted to see if she still wanted to buy. 'I went down for another look, half thinking it

probably wouldn't be as I remembered, but it was just as beautiful,' she says. 'I could see myself living there quite happily.' There was just one problem – there wasn't enough space to install a septic tank in the garden and without it there could be no renovation. Clodagh entered into a successful negotiation with the farmer whose land adjoined the cottage to buy an extra plot large enough to accommodate a tank. She then put down a deposit on the property, but had to wait another two long years for the cottage to clear probate.

During that time Clodagh met Pat, her husband, and they had the wedding to organise. Life took over and it wasn't until April 2008 that renovation work started on the cottage. The couple had big plans. They decided the four bedrooms and four bathrooms would be in the original part of the house and they would connect the cottage to the adjacent stone shed to get a large open-plan kitchen/dining/living space that would run from the front of the

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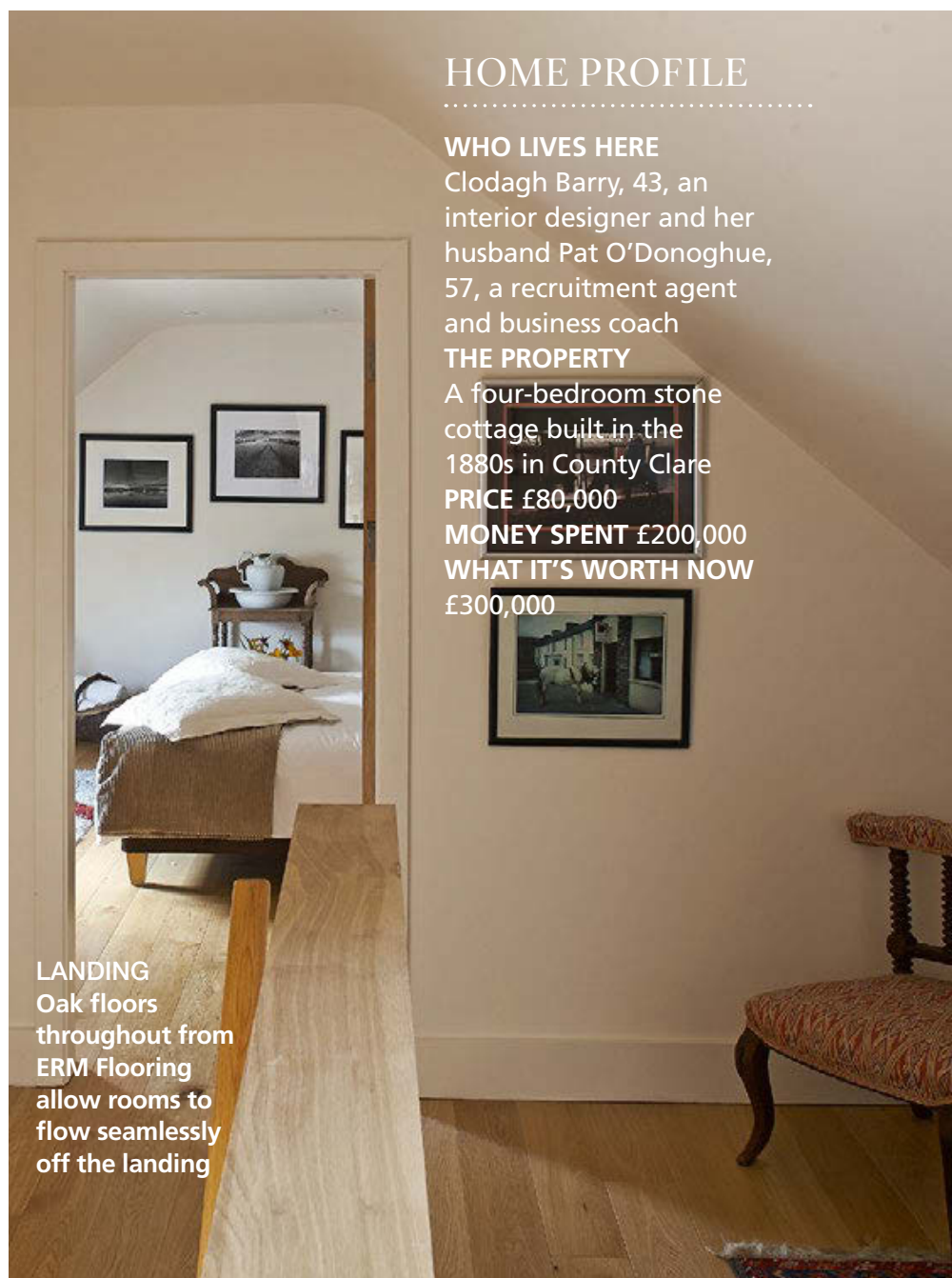
CORRIDOR
Every room has large windows to take in the beautiful surroundings. Antique pieces, such as the butter churn in the corner, add character



DINING AREA
Neutral colours mean the view takes centre stage. The table and chairs are from Habitat and the pendant light is from Duff Tisdall



KITCHEN
Wooden units made by Bernard Vaughan Carpentry and Joinery are simple and smart



LANDING
Oak floors throughout from ERM Flooring allow rooms to flow seamlessly off the landing

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Clodagh Barry, 43, an interior designer and her husband Pat O'Donoghue, 57, a recruitment agent and business coach

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom stone cottage built in the 1880s in County Clare

PRICE £80,000

MONEY SPENT £200,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW
£300,000

LIVING AREA

Seating is grouped around the stove from **Hearth & Home**. The bird sculpture was a gift and the unusual driftwood lamp is from **Hicken Lighting**



‘It was a stunning location and a very special place. The house was off the beaten track, yet it wasn’t far from neighbours and friends,’ SAYS CLODAGH

EXTERIOR

The countryside surrounding the cottage is wild and rugged



house to the back. They also planned to convert the shed into a study. Clodagh and Pat decided on an open-plan layout as the rear of the house faces southwest and gets the sun all day and the front has views of the Atlantic.

The couple also realised they would need to extend across the back of the house not only to get extra room for the open-plan living area, but also to get more space for the bedrooms and bathrooms in the original part of the house. Planning permission is restrictive in this beauty spot, so Clodagh and Pat had to adhere to strict regulations when it came to the height and width of any new windows at the front of the house. ‘Although we retained the correct proportions, we installed the windows at a higher level, says Clodagh. ‘Pat is six foot six and he would have had to stoop to see out!’ For the rear of the house, planning restrictions were less strict, but Clodagh still had to settle for windows instead of the glazed wall she wanted.

Once the renovation work was completed Clodagh turned

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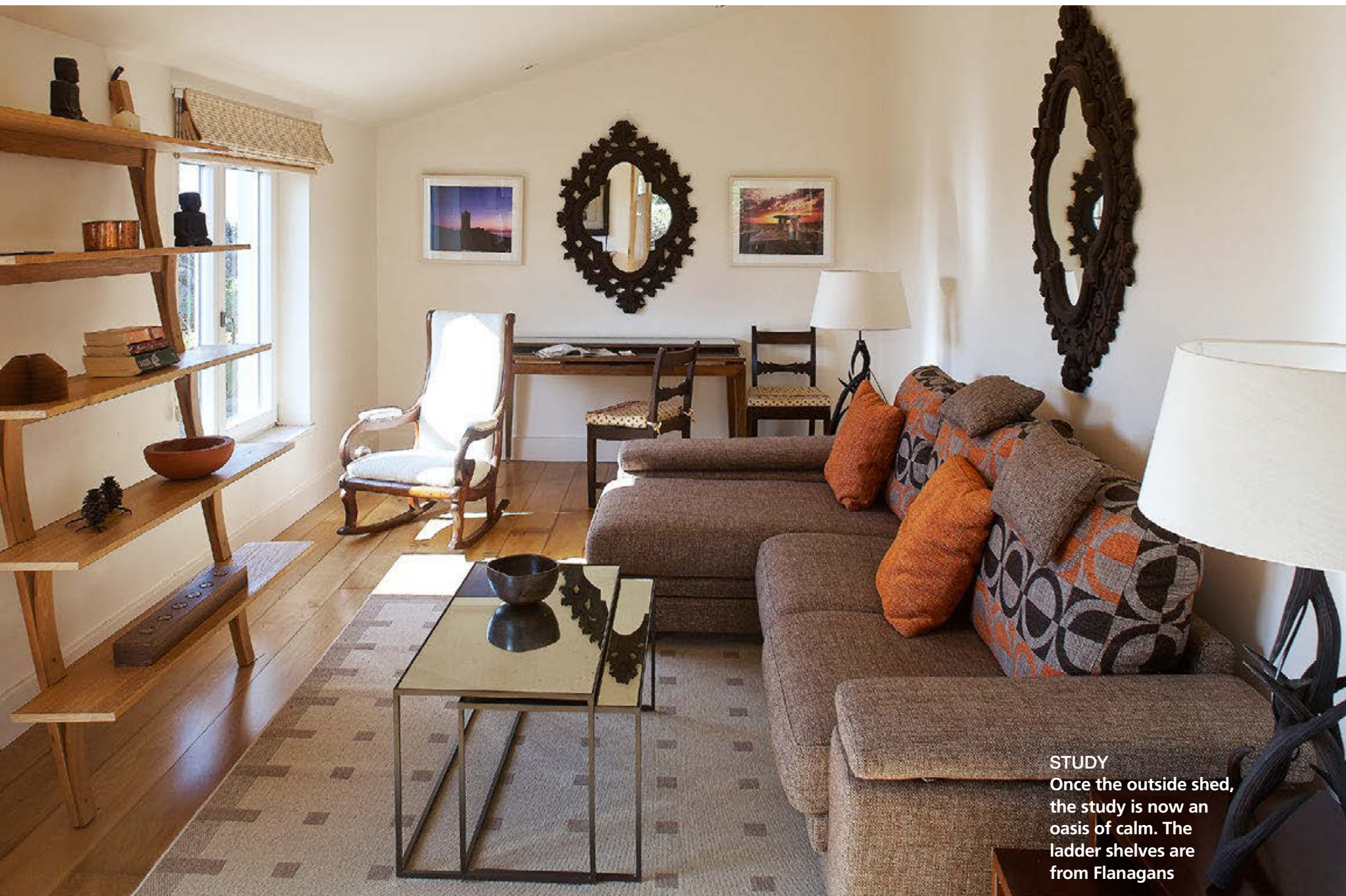
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STUDY
Once the outside shed, the study is now an oasis of calm. The ladder shelves are from Flanagans

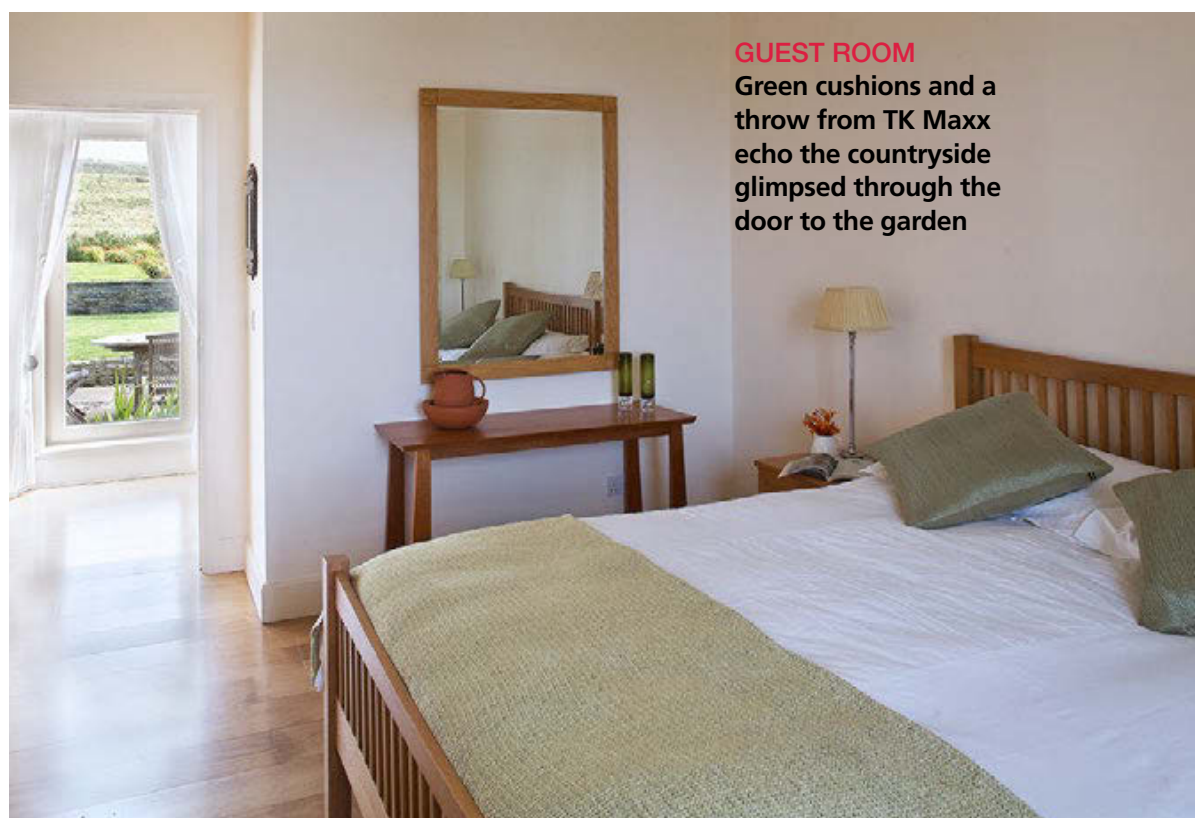
‘I wanted to keep it simple, light and bright... I also wanted any colour I introduced to tie in with the landscape,’ SAYS CLODAGH

her attention to decorating the interior. ‘I wanted to keep it simple and bright,’ she says. ‘I did like the idea of using some colour, but preferred to have the walls neutral to give the space a light and airy feel. I also wanted any colour I introduced to tie in with the landscape, so my starting point in the main living space was the rug in shades of earthy brown, sage and stone. I used a sand colour on the walls and added sofas in soft natural shades of brown and the softest sage green.’

Clodagh’s mother helped the couple move in and also gave some decorating advice. ‘It was wonderful to have her assistance,’ says Clodagh. ‘She’s an interior designer like me and has a good eye. She started her business in the sixties and only retired at the age of 79!’ Clodagh and Sam still get inspired by their amazing surroundings and spectacular ocean view. ‘It’s such a privilege to live here,’ says Clodagh. 

● **The cottage is available as a holiday rental, visit uniqueirishhomes.ie for more information**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



GUEST ROOM
Green cushions and a throw from TK Maxx echo the countryside glimpsed through the door to the garden



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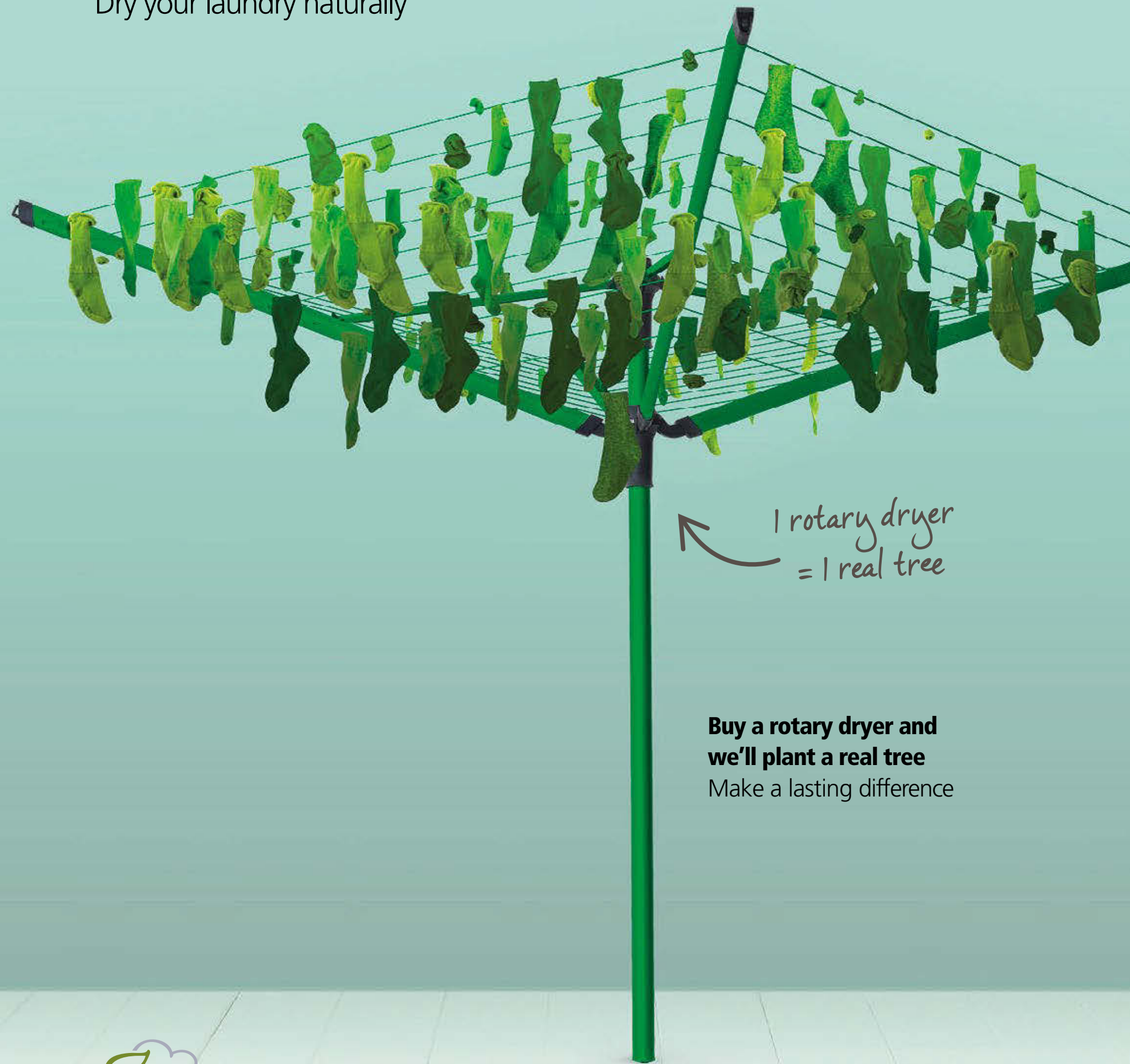
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FREE 'N' EASY TRAVEL

A good travel insurance policy should let you get on with enjoying your trip, but what should you expect it to deliver?

* **Decide on the level of cover you need**
'It's vital to have an idea of minimum cover levels,' says Johanna Gornitzki, Money and Insurance Editor at moneysavingexpert.com. Make sure your policy includes...

Medical expenses: £2 million per person.

Cancellation: This must at least match the cost of your holiday, per person.

Baggage: £750 per person. 'If yours is worth more, go for a higher cover,' says Johanna.

* **Home – and away**

Many people believe that their home and contents policy will cover them for short trips in the UK. However, as Gemma Sonfield, Head of Products at comparethemarket.com, points out, 'You may have cover for personal belongings, but it's unlikely that cancellation or curtailment of the trip will be covered.'

* **Keep it in the family**

Inform your insurer of all family members who will be travelling, even babies. Older children (under-18s) on a family policy will usually still have cover even when travelling without you, for instance on a school trip. 'But only if they're travelling with a relative, guardian or person with a legal duty of care,' explains Johanna Gornitzki.

* **Perk or persuader?**

Some banks try to lure customers with accounts that include 'free' travel insurance. 'If you'll use the another cover that's bundled with a bank account – usually mobile phone loss/damage and breakdown recovery – it can be a good deal,' says Johanna. 'Usually, though, it's not worth it if you just get it for the travel insurance.'

* **Play it safe**

'Most travel insurance policies will include cover for some sports and activities as standard, but it's worth checking the policy to see exactly what's included,' says Gemma Sonfield. 'More hazardous sports and activities may also be covered at an additional cost.'



* **Be honest**

Insurance companies are clamping down on claims involving pre-diagnosed medical conditions that need to be disclosed, for example, heart problems or epilepsy. 'You should always be honest when disclosing your medical history,' says Gemma Sonfield. 'You won't always be charged extra but failure to disclose any conditions, past or ongoing, could potentially affect claims for medical treatment, flights or even invalidate the whole policy.'

* **Take reasonable care**

But what does that mean? 'Reasonable care' is the biggest bone of contention on most insurance claims. It's up to you to prove that you've taken all possible steps to protect yourself and your belongings. Gemma Sonfield advises: **Always act** in accordance with the rules and regulations of the country and resort you're in. **Consider using** a safety deposit box or safe to store your valuable items and travel documents. **Check the policy** – for instance, most providers will have a clause in relation to alcohol consumption. It might say: 'We will not pay any claim arising because you have drunk so much alcohol that your judgement is seriously affected and you need to make a claim as a result.'

* **And, finally, remember your EHIC card**
Make sure every family member has a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which entitles you to free or reduced-cost medical treatment in European countries. Visit nhs.co.uk for more info.

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Individual/year: from £13 Europe; £22 world

Couples/year: from £22 Europe; £41 world

Family/year: from £27 Europe; £46 world

Over-65s/year: from £38 Europe; £64 world

TWITTER TALK

Richard Lloyd, Executive Director of *Which?*, explains how to get the best broadband speed

@HB: What's the minimum broadband speed we should expect in the UK?

@RichardJLloyd: @ofcom says the average broadband speed in the UK is 18.7Mbps, but many people tell us they're getting less

@HB: Why do so many ads promise us more?

@RichardJLloyd: Broadband providers can advertise speeds only 10% of their customers can get. We want these confusing ads to be more clear.

@HB: What if I sign up to a deal and it doesn't deliver?

@RichardJLloyd: Contact the provider to make a complaint, then join our #broadband speed guaranteed campaign

@HB: I need evidence. How can I test my broadband speed myself?

@RichardJLloyd: Test your broadband speed on the broadband speed checker tool through our campaign page whi.ch/SP33D

@HB: What actually causes slow-running broadband anyway? Is it always the provider's fault?

@RichardJLloyd: Not always. It can be various reasons – router position, network security, even furniture in the way. Our campaign has tips!

@HB: The big companies have such power. What can ordinary customers do about a problem?

@RichardJLloyd: We're calling for broadband speed to be guaranteed. So you can sign our #broadband speed guaranteed campaign at whi.ch/SP33D

SET IN stone

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Sycamore Cottage is full of character, with beamed ceilings, a brick fireplace including multi-fuel stove, and traditional doors. There's a living room and separate dining room, four bedrooms and lovely gardens that include a dining area.

Palmer Snell,
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OFFERS OVER £450,000



Situated on the edge of open moorland, Eagle House is Grade II listed and recently refurbished so you don't have to do a thing. It dates back to the late 19th century and has five bedrooms and three reception rooms over three floors, plus a walled garden.

Savills, 01392 455700

IVESTON, NEAR CONSETT, COUNTY DURHAM

£495,000



This four-bedroom barn conversion combines traditional features such as arched windows with contemporary fittings including underfloor heating. There's plenty of space for family living, with a kitchen/breakfast room, dining room and living room.

Finest Properties,
01434 622234

EGTON, NEAR WHITBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

£435,000



Just a few miles from the sea, this cottage offers a surprising amount of living space, including four bedrooms, a kitchen/dining room, living room and study. Outside there are outbuildings and a 'secret' garden hidden by dry-stone walls.

Carter Jonas,
01904 558200



PROPERTY gossip

As his star rises, American actor Josh Hartnett is selling his stunning Victorian-era home in Minnesota (above) to spend more time filming his TV horror series *Penny Dreadful* in Dublin. His five-bedroom house, built in 1887, is on the market for \$2.4m and is a surprisingly traditional property for a 36-year-old bachelor, with stained-glass windows, wooden floors, period fireplaces and sash windows. However, it's not short of modern touches — it comes with a four-car garage, an exercise room and an outdoor pool.



PROPERTY FINANCE
SPECIALIST

Melanie Bien

Money expert and
founder of Bien Media

New mortgage rules
– will they affect us?

We plan to remortgage to fund an extension on our house and while we don't have any loans, apart from our current mortgage, and just one credit card, we're wondering if this will count against us under the new mortgage rules?

Since the Mortgage Market Review was introduced last year, it has definitely become tougher to get a mortgage. Lenders are paying particular attention to affordability to see whether a borrower's income supports the lending they want to take on. The lender will be looking at details of all your outgoings as well as your income, and will check bank statements to confirm this.

The lender will want proof that you can afford the bigger mortgage – both now and in the future when interest rates rise. It's good news that you don't have any loans but other regular outgoings, such as gym memberships, school fees or payments to a wine club, for example, will be taken into account when deciding how much you can afford to borrow.

It makes sense to plan ahead and ditch any unnecessary expenditure several months before you apply to a lender for a further advance or remortgage. Speak to an independent mortgage broker who will go through your finances and help you choose the lender most likely to be sympathetic to your particular circumstances: it may well not be your existing one.

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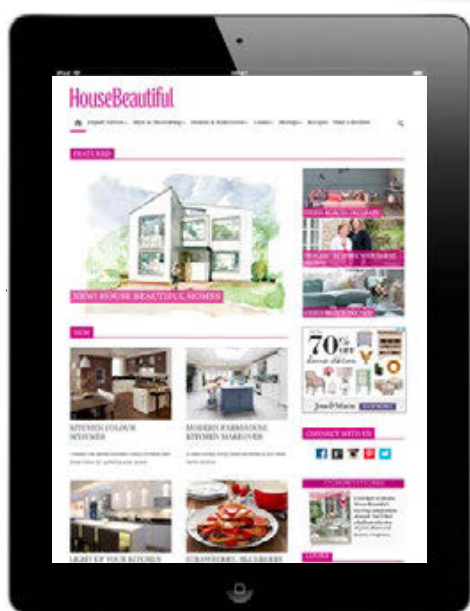
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HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Jo Richards, 46, her husband Alistair, 48, both lawyers, and their children Emily, 14, Tom, 12, and Oliver, 10

THE RENOVATION

A four-bedroom, early Victorian terrace in north London. The basement was converted into a spacious kitchen with dining area and access to the garden at the back, and a separate TV room at the front. The conversion, including the building work, furniture, fittings and a complete overhaul of the garden, cost £400,000

EXTERIOR (opposite)

To make the existing basement bigger, an extension was added. The flat roof has two skylights to flood the space with light

KITCHEN

The basement's new open-plan living area is cleverly zoned with the help of a run of units, which also houses the hob, and a bespoke oak breakfast bar. The units have been given a designer look with sleek Corian worktops from BSF Solid Surfaces



ON ANOTHER LEVEL

The dark basement of this Victorian terrace has been turned into a modern space that's the heart of the home

WORDS KATE JACOBS **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH

When Jo and Alistair Richards first set eyes on their north London home thirteen years ago, they fell for the early Victorian terrace's large living room. They had been on a quest for a house with plenty of light and space – commodities that are hard to find in a city – and the big, bright living room won them over. Less pleasing was the dark basement, where the kitchen, dining room and utility room were situated. It was so dingy the lights had to stay on all day, but Jo and Alistair both knew they could transform it into an amazing, light-filled space as soon as they had the time, energy and budget.

With three young children keeping them busy, it wasn't until nine years after they bought the house that the couple were able to start making plans for the basement. And things didn't get off to a smooth start. The first architect they worked with didn't understand the family's needs, so Alistair sat down and trawled the internet, looking for a firm whose style was compatible with theirs. 'It might sound obvious,' says Jo, 'but when you're choosing an architect, you can't just tell them to

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

STAIRWELL

Architect Martyn Clarke devised a glass lantern box and a structural glass stair panel as a way of bringing light down into the basement



BOOK SHELVES

Oak shelving looks striking against the teal glass splashback from Preedy Glass. Jo felt the all-white kitchen needed a hit of colour and the glass also helps reflect light around the room



do this, this and this. You need to spend the time to find one whose work you love and then trust them to get on with it.'

Their chosen architect, Martyn Clarke, had made a name for himself with residential extensions and instantly understood what the pair were hoping to achieve. Inside, where the kitchen and utility room used to be they would create one large open-plan space with separate zones for cooking and dining, and the old dining room would become a separate TV room. Martyn also suggested extending the basement out widthways and back into the garden by more than four metres to get a bigger kitchen/dining space, as well as excavating a large terrace so that the new kitchen would open straight out onto the garden. Finally, he proposed topping the extension with a sedum roof. In addition to being the ecological option, it also meant that from the upper storeys there's a view onto an area of greenery rather than a large expanse of asphalt.

The family moved into a rented flat just down the road while the work was going on, allowing Jo to make frequent trips to the site. 'Martyn and the building team were great,' she says. 'They never seemed to mind my visits and always listened to my suggestions.' A huge amount of excavation work was involved to get the inside and outside areas level and to achieve a better room height for the new kitchen/dining space. 'Towards the end there was just room for the digger next to a vast hole,' says Jo. 'I worried that it might fall in!' An

access track at the rear of the garden allowed the builders to remove the countless skips of earth relatively simply. 'We managed to avoid the dreaded conveyor belt through the house,' says Jo.

The amount of excavation needed wasn't quite as extensive as it might have been as the couple decided to zone the kitchen and dining areas by putting them on two separate levels. These levels are now divided by a simple oak breakfast bar and the division is also emphasised by two skylights and two separate floor-to-ceiling glass doors, which open on to the new terrace. Walls and floors were kept the same in both sections for a cohesive look.

Everyone in the family is a passionate cook so Jo and Alistair splashed out on gadgets, buying four ovens, including a steam version. Choosing a fridge, however, raised a few problems. 'Martyn urged us to go for something integral, but we knew we wanted a water dispenser so we held our ground,' says Jo. It was she who chose the beautiful teal glass splashback. 'I spent many wonderful childhood holidays in South Africa and it was only after this glass was in place that I realised it's the colour of the sea over there.' Likewise, she opted for lots of pale oak wood because it reflects her personal history, evoking memories of her father's furniture factory, which she loved visiting as a child.

With the garden now completely accessible from the kitchen, the family uses it so much more. 'Since the renovations, we feel we've

DINING AREA

ASW Joinery created the storage unit that runs the length of the room. It has a desk at the end to give the family a mini office space. The print is from photography gallery Lumas



SUNKEN GARDEN

The builders excavated the garden to create a terrace that is level with the new kitchen/dining room. It's paved with granite slabs



got the best of both worlds,' says Jo. 'We're in the middle of London but with all the space and light we need, and we have a home that looks out onto a garden and the park beyond. We can watch the birds and squirrels in the trees!' Jo's advice to anyone contemplating a similar renovation is simple: 'Just have confidence and go ahead and do it. We've got a great family home now, with enough room for everyone. It's completely changed the way we live.'

● Find out more about the couple's architect Martyn Clarke by visiting martynclarkearchitecture.com

WHAT IT COST

Construction, fit-out and architect	£320,000
Kitchen.....	£17,000
Appliances.....	£15,000
Flooring.....	£12,000
Furniture.....	£6,000
Green roof, garden landscaping and planting.....	£30,000
TOTAL.....	£400,000

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

LETTING the light in

✱ Jo and Alistair's architect looked for every opportunity to bring light into the lower level of the house. He devised a glass lantern box on the floor above, which adds a sculptural element to the building and allows light to flood into the stairwell leading down to the basement. The new staircase is also flanked by a structural glass screen that helps bring light into the basement.

✱ The basement's rear extension has a flat roof, which gave the couple the opportunity to have two skylights – one over the centre of the kitchen space and the other over the dining area, making the entire space feel open and bright.

✱ Another area that plays its part in keeping the basement light-filled is the garden, which was once at a higher level and only linked to the basement by steps down through a narrow light well. By excavating a large terrace that is at the same level as the basement kitchen, and paving it with light-reflecting silver-grey granite slabs, the architect has allowed light to flood into the kitchen's glass doors.

✱ Practical light fittings also keep the space bright. There's a trio of pendants over the breakfast bar, plus dimmable recessed spotlights that provide both bright task lighting and low-level mood lighting.

● Turn over for full details on how to enter the House Beautiful Renovation of the Year competition



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How to enter

Send your name, address and contact details together with photographs and a clearly written description of your project in no more than 300 words. Please include details of the condition of your project before the renovation started, what was done to effect the transformation, any professional help, the cost, how long it took and how you feel about the finished

result. Include colour photographs, with before shots if possible.

Send your entry to: Renovation of the Year 2015 Competition, House Beautiful, 72 Broadwick Street, London W1F 9EP; email it, subject Renovation of the Year 2015, to house.beautiful@hearst.co.uk or enter online at housebeautiful.co.uk/featured/renovation. The competition closes on 5 June 2015.

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SQUARED UP *A weekend*

Try a painted tile effect. Mark out squares with masking tape then paint them in complementary colours in a mosaic pattern. Cover with a sheet of acrylic for protection. Alternatively you could achieve an instant update to existing tiles with transfer stickers. Try mibo.co.uk. Or paint a new colour on tired tiles with Ronseal one-coat tile paint. **Tiles painted in Soft Steel and Rum & Raisin Kitchen & Bathroom matt emulsion, both £25.99 for 2.5L; Sophistication and Millionaire Metallics range, both £18.42 for 1.25L; all Crown. Ronseal One Coat white satin paint, £19.98 for 750ml, B&Q. Acrylic sheet, Homebase**

QUICK! DECORATE!

Short of time? Use these simple ideas to transform every room, whether you have a day, a weekend or a week to spare



1 BOARDROOM *A day*

Introduce pattern into a bedroom by framing a favourite wallpaper. Pick a piece that coordinates with your bedlinen and cut to fit in a modern or vintage frame to suit the room. Or you could make a padded headboard. Have plywood cut to size. Cut a foam pad to the same size, then attach it to the plywood with strong adhesive spray. Cut wadding to cover one side of the board with enough excess to reach around to the back. Keep this layer in place using a staple gun all around the edges of the reverse. Do the same with your chosen fabric, turn it over and your board is complete. **Headboard and bedlinen fabrics, all £55 a metre; Chalk Tile wallpaper (in frame), £75 a roll; all The Peggy collection, Louise Body. Wadding and foam pads, Dunelm. Plywood, B&Q or Homebase**

2 PASTEL PERFECT *A weekend*

For a unique paint effect, create a geometric shape on your wall. Use a spirit level to make sure the lines are straight and mark with masking tape. Paint with a small brush close to the tape to keep the edges neat but use a regular roller for the rest of the space. Limit your design to two colours for a stylish result. **Carrie (blue) and Honey Fever Core (pink) matt emulsion, both £18.47 for 2.5L, Crown**

3 BOX CLEVER *A day*

Stack up plywood boxes to create storage that doubles up as a display unit. Fix them together with strong wood glue and line some of them with wallpaper or paint using a sample pot. **Storage boxes, £130 for six; house-shaped storage boxes, £89 for three; assorted accessories, from £27; all Bloomingville at White Punch**

CONTINUED OVER PAGE





4 BIRD'S EYE *A weekend*

Give a little love to an old wooden chest of drawers. Paint it with a self-priming paint, such as Grand Illusions Vintage paint. For an aged effect, paint on a second coat in a contrasting colour and gently sand down the edges so that the first coat shows through. Paste a printed wallpaper in a matching shade onto the drawer fronts, removing the handles first. Once the wallpaper is firmly in place, replace the original handles or choose new ones. **Vintage paint, £18.95 for 1L, Grand Illusions. Seagulls 214585 wallpaper, £46 a roll, Sanderson**

5 WRAPPED AROUND *A day*

Create an individual scheme by using a wallpaper offcut to make a personalised lampshade. A lamp base in an understated shape will give the shade extra impact. You can also buy lampshade kits from needcraft.co.uk or commission one from lightingworks.co.uk. **Lamp base, find similar at John Lewis. Shade in Closet Stripe ST 364 wallpaper, £60 a roll; walls painted in Pointing and Skimming Stone Estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5L; unit painted in Skimming Stone Estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5L; all Farrow & Ball**

6 TWO TONE *A day*

Personalise a side table with colour. Paint either the tabletop and upper half of the legs or just the bottom half of the legs and leave the rest unpainted. Go for just a pair or opt for a larger grouping painted in a variety of complementary colours for a stunning effect. **Elgin side tables, £75 each; painted in Pale Ivory and Pale Seaspray Furniture paint, £22 for 1L; curtains made up in Pussy Willow Seaspray, £35 a metre; lampshade, £36; Whitley base, £85; vase, £16; all Laura Ashley**

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

‘Stencils in geometric shapes work particularly well. Allow at least a day between painting the wall and applying the stencil to ensure the surface is completely dry.’

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES, INTERIORS EDITOR

HEADS UP *A weekend*

Stencil a headboard above a divan to create a focal point. Try the stencil-library.com for designs. Depending on how dramatic you want the effect to be, you could stencil a standard headboard size or go higher up the walls for maximum impact. **Lupin (wall), and Pure Brilliant White (stencil) matt emulsion, both £18.47 for 2.5L, Crown**





7



8



9

7 MODERN ART *A weekend*

Unleash your inner artist with a Mondrian-inspired feature wall. Mark up shapes in an irregular grid formation on a freshly painted white wall and fill in the edges in a dark grey or black using a small paintbrush. Primaries, earthy or cool tones would work well. Just make sure there's a relationship between your colours. **Paints from Little Greene Retrospectives range. Daybed and Artemide floor lamp, find similar at The Conran Shop. Twiggy print, £150, John Lewis. Retro coffee pot and cup and saucer, find similar at Folly and Glee**

8 FADE AWAY *A weekend*

Gentle colour graduation can have a sophisticated and harmonious appearance if you keep to a soft palette. Grey works particularly well on this column of drawers. Start from the bottom with the darkest shade and work your way up. Pause at each stage to check the colour flow, and use the paler tone for the body of the piece to avoid it looking too heavy and dark. **Drawers painted in Estate eggshell paints, £21 for 2.5L; wall papered in Parquet wallpaper, £110 for a 10m roll; all Farrow & Ball**

9 DIP-DYED *A weekend*

Ombred walls are having a bit of moment, but this is a style you can adapt to different pieces and a pimped up radiator is a great option for adding a bit of unexpected colour to a simply decorated room. Use an eggshell paint such as Farrow & Ball's Estate eggshell, which is robust enough for the job. **Wall painted in Mist emulsion, £16 for 1.25L; Oxo Tower print, £50; both Habitat**

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

‘Go for a bold design on your walls with a contemporary chevron design. On-trend charcoal and chalk give an air of sophistication.’

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES, INTERIORS EDITOR

CHEVRON CHIC *A weekend*

Paint can be a great alternative to tiling in the bathroom. First clean the walls with a solution of sugar soap, then use a primer suitable for bathrooms before applying your chosen paint colour. Before you start, cover all surfaces, especially the sanitaryware, as dripped paint is difficult to remove. Create a border above the picture rail and mark the shapes with masking tape. Keep to a restricted colour palette such as dark grey and soft white. Start with white as your base for this section of the wall and add the grey on top.

Wall in Slate Grey and Soft Steel Kitchen & Bathroom matt emulsion; bath in Slate Grey Kitchen & Bathroom matt emulsion; cabinet in Pure Brilliant White matt emulsion; all £25.99 for 2.5L, Crown





10


10 GREEN FINGERED *A weekend*

You'll need plenty of fabric, but not too much sewing expertise to create these blinds. For the ceiling blinds, fit a curtain pole or two centrally along the apex of the ceiling. Edge lengths of fabrics that have been cut to match the length of the glass roof. Thread evenly over the pole and fix the neaten edges to the top of the walls. Make blinds for the side windows to match. **Hanging fabric, Hedera, £47 a metre, Sanderson**

11 BLOCK PARTY *A week*

Seek out a vintage sideboard that's in need of repair. Paint the drawer fronts and cupboard doors in different colours but keep the main body dark for a classic look. Sand down first and use surface primer before applying the colour. To set it off, paint three walls a neutral grey and inject a hit of colour such as yellow on the other. **Back wall, Cloudburst matt emulsion, £18.47 for 2.5L; side wall, Chartreuse Mix, £10.98 for 1.25L; sideboard, Scottish Pine non-drip gloss, £13.63 for 750ml; Jet Black and Pure Brilliant White gloss, both from £13.63 for 750ml; all Crown**

12 SMALL SCALE *A weekend*

Use the same wallpaper on your bedroom wall and headboard but in two different colourways. Go for the bolder colourway as a bed headboard so it stands out against a paler version behind. Mount the wallpaper on a panel of plywood and edge with lengths of wooden moulding. **Wall and headboard, Pecos wallpaper, £56 a roll; cushions from the Amazilia range; all Harlequin** 



11



12

WORDS KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES



Hampton sofa, £999; Mekong sideboard, £399; Mekong coffee table, £249; Mekong side table, £199; Tripod floor lamp, £79; Pasadena table lamp, £29; all Tesco

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For a sophisticated coastal look, team neutral furnishings with ocean blue accessories. Add warm wood pieces from the high quality Mekong range – made from solid acacia wood – for a tropical island vibe.

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QUESTION: What kind of wood is the Tesco Mekong range of furniture made from?

ANSWER: _____

Name _____

Address _____

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS **Calls should last no longer than two minutes. Calls from mobiles and other networks may cost more. If you phone or text your entry after the advertised closing date, you will not be entered but you will be charged. Entry is open to residents living in mainland UK. Only one entry per household. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date. Service provider: Spoke (0333 202 3390). No purchase is necessary. The prize is not transferable. Existing furniture will not be removed. For full terms and conditions turn to p6.

DATA PROTECTION We will use the information you supply to process your competition entry. *When you enter by text, you may in future receive marketing messages from Hearst Magazines UK and Tesco. If you'd prefer not to please end your text entry with NO OFFERS. For our privacy policy, visit hearst.co.uk/dp.

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MOODBOARD MASTERCLASS

TAKE A GROWN-UP APPROACH TO DECORATING WITH PINK

Blue Birds Off White/Seaspray Blue **wallpaper**, £33 a roll, Laura Ashley. Asolo Solent **blue linen fabric**, £85 a metre; Passion 3 **cushion**, £80, Jessica Zoob for Black Edition; both Romo. **Fabric swatches (from bottom)**: Asolo Soft Pink, £85 a metre, Romo. Lambada in Cream/Pink, £36 a metre; Lisson in Sea Blue, £32 a metre; both Jane Churchill. Maiko **bowl**, £10, Folklore. Mali ceramic dinner **plate**, £34.95, Nkuku. **Paint (from bottom)**: Evening Allium emulsion, £36 for 2L, Paint by Conran. Kensington Rose Marble Matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Mylands. Nancy's Blushes Estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. **Bamboo box lid**, part of the Elodie round bamboo box, £10 for two, Habitat

Create our cover look Pink can add freshness and warmth to cool, summery room schemes. Team pale rose upholstery with fabrics in soft, watery blues for a romantic, elegant look and introduce basketweave and pale wood for a naturally beautiful finish

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Similar **wall paint**, Pink Ground Estate emulsion, £38.25 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. **Curtains** made up in Big Smile Sky, £70 a metre, Jessica Zoob for Black Edition, Romo. Guernsey **rug**, £395, Loaf. Mellow Fellow **sofa** in Metro Pale Rose and Uptown, from £1,485, Sofa Workshop. Holly **armchair (seen on front cover)** in Rock House viscose linen, £540, sofa.com. Paulo **coffee table**, £415, Liam Treanor. **Side table** Two, £555; **Sideboard** Two, £2,475; both Another Country. Bamboo **light shades**, from £75 each, both Cox & Cox. **Cushions on armchair (seen on front cover)**: Dust Linen, £45, Design Vintage. Beginning, £80, Jessica Zoob for Black Edition, Romo. **Cushions on sofa (l-r)**: Grey Stripe, £38, Design Vintage. Perfect Day, £80, Jessica Zoob for Black Edition, Romo. Pastel Splatter, £70, Amy Sia. Pale Pink comes with sofa. Passion 3, £80, Jessica Zoob for Black Edition, Romo. **On coffee table**: Pretty Honest **book**, £22, Anthropologie. **Mug**, £8, Marks & Spencer. **On sideboard (l-r)**: **Mauve vase**, £85; Milky white **bottle**, £55; both I & JL Brown. Chandra **candlesticks**, from £16.95 each, both Nkuku. Boule **vase**, £132, Holly's House. **On side table**: Hector **table lamp**, £145, Original BTC. **Book**, £12, Persephone Books. **In garden (seen on front cover)**: **Jug**, £23, Holly's House. Mali **plates**, £34.95 each; **glasses**, from a selection; all Nkuku. **Napkins**, £7.50 each, The Linen Works. **Plants**, Ikea

Prevent pink from being too overpowering by choosing a barely-there blush for the walls and a soft, powdery pale peony for a chunky sofa or squashy armchair. Painterly floral prints in baby blue add contrast, while smoked glass, wickerwork and pale wood occasional furniture bring depth



Soft footing
The ombre effect of this handwoven beauty graduates from a pale blossom pink to a warm heather purple. **Phipps Heather rug, from £1,145, Designers Guild**



Bright spark
Add a simply styled light for contrast. **Duo table lamp in Alpine White, £95, Anglepoise**



Colour splash
This ultra-pretty print looks painted on. **Rorschach cushion, £70, Amy Sia**



Top table
A future classic by Scandi design duo Says Who. **Why Wood coffee table, £225, John Lewis**



Take a seat
This sofa will be the star of the room. **Emily sofa in Rose House viscose linen, £1,270, sofa.com**

Shape shifter
Made from recycled glass, this delicate piece has flowing lines that almost seem to move. **Esterban vase, £30, Habitat**



Tactile touch
Concrete is the perfect contrast to pretty pink. **Candle, £7.99, H&M**

Perfect perch
Oak and aluminium give this stool an industrial feel, which will bring a rustic edge to your scheme. **Sand Cast stool, £225, Sam Lloyd at Heal's**



Light work
The slatted design means it casts a soft glow. **Bamboo pendant lightshade, from £75, Cox & Cox**



A bit on the side
Grey lacquered doors make this sideboard stand out. **Boundary sideboard in Warm Grey, £449, made.com**





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** Per IEC 60312-1:1st Edition, Clause 5.9. Machine must be maintained as per instructed in the user guide. To max fill line.

+ Pick up performance compared to leading GfK handsticks Dec 2013. Wilton carpet.

Modern home office Soothing and soft, pale pink is a surprisingly effective colour for creating a relaxed workspace. Keep the scheme upbeat by adding subtle patterns in the form of wallpapers and fabrics, and finish with a few hits of grey and black for a sophisticated feel

Coastline oak **flooring** in Seashell, £74.94 a sq metre, Fired Earth.

Wallpaper and fabrics (from right): Tourbillon, £95 a roll, Farrow & Ball. Georgian Button, £72 a roll, Cole & Son. Persia in Smoke, £22 a roll, John Lewis. Plains 5 in Shrimp, £36 a metre, Scion. Juno Smoke, £62.99 a metre, Prestigious Textiles. **Paints (from top left):** Cinder Rose Estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Skylon Grey Matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5L; Orchard Pink Matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5L; both Fired Earth. **Boutique A5 lined notebook**, £5; New hoop **alarm clock**, £15; both Marks & Spencer. **A6 linen journal**, £19.95, Nkuku. The Makery cream **lace**, £5.95 for 3m, Wild & Wolf. **Buttons**, from a selection, Liberty

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Introduce pink on the walls – wallpapering behind shelves will make plain box and magazine files in white stand out. Go for a mix of retro and modern accessories with a utility feel to keep the scheme eye-catching and contemporary, and add a rustic touch with limed or painted floorboards

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Fade out

In a subtle shade, this has a slight fabric shimmer for an on-trend look. **Pink ombre silk cushion, £52, The French Bedroom Company**



Tick tock

Add a vintage element with this timepiece. **I'm Late table clock, £49, Out There Interiors**



All white

The sleek lines of this desk provide a smart contrast to dainty patterns – and it comes with two handy drawers and a cable store. **Alex desk in White, £120, Ikea**

Super storage

Put all your magazines in this stylish holder. **Felt storage box, £45 for three, John Lewis**



Switched on

For those who work in the evenings, a desk lamp is essential. **Bobby desk lamp, £20, Habitat**

Good lookin'

Beautify your desk with some gorgeous vases. **Raw vases, £29.95 for two, Broste Copenhagen at House of Fraser**



Sitting pretty

Perch in style on a striking bar stool. **Briggs bar stool in Black, £199, Out & Out Original**

Vintage chic

Keep pens, pencils, ribbons, buttons and keepsakes in charming embossed glass jars. **Farmstead collection jars, from £1.99 each, Dunelm**



Tactile touch

Add a textural element with this handmade rug, it has handstitched wool detailing on the hessian border. **Cinnabar rug, from 195, Loaf**



Tidy up

Go for a coordinated look. **A4 boxfile, £36; pen pot, £12.95; both Diamond Dot Casement range, Joanna Wood**



Tea time

Handthrown in stoneware and porcelain, this mug takes eight weeks to make. **Anna mug, £27, Toast**



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COLOUR confident

Industry experts highlight the trends for this season's outdoor paints



SOPHISTICATED GREYS

Colours inspired by urban landscapes provide depth outdoors

There's nothing smarter than grey used as a backdrop to the vibrant tones of lush plants, and Dark Lead Colour (above) also has an immense warmth, making it perfect for the less colourful winter months too. Our brand new Tom's oil eggshell has a beautiful, low sheen.

DAVID MOTTERSHEAD
MD, LITTLE GREENE

Reflecting the current popularity of neutrals in the home, Urban Slate will provide a superb contrast to the bright blooms and iris blues that are the planting trends for 2015. I'll be using it as a backdrop for aubergines and purple tomatoes!

LOUISE TOD SENIOR
GLOBAL COLOUR
DESIGNER, CUPRINOL



Dark Lead Colour
118, Tom's oil
eggshell, £58 for
2.5L, Little Greene



**Garden Shades Urban
Slate woodstain,**
from £22 for 2.5L,
Cuprinol



GREEN FINGERS

Versatile silvery hues and rich olives are perfect for garden projects

Inspired by soft, earthy pastels, Leafy Rise (above, lantern in the background) is our go-to colour for a vintage feel, reminiscent of cottage gardens and a gentler way of life – I'm always tempted to team it with fuchsia pink! Use the spray outside on a still, warm day and apply in fine layers.

PHILIPPA KING
PR, PLASTIKOTE

Calm and composed, Sea Green was inspired by 1930s fashion and interiors. It would make a statement on a front door or an entire wall, and with its delicate appeal would add a stylish finish to upcycled and repainted garden furniture.

JAYNE FOSSITT
PAINT COORDINATOR,
MARSTON & LANGINGER



**Leafy Rise Twist & Spray
Colour spray paint,**
from £7.49 for 400ml,
Plastikote



**Sea Green exterior
eggshell, £49.50 for 2.5L,**
Marston & Langinger

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OUTDOOR
INSPIRATION

When choosing paint for your garden, think about light sources, shadows and other colours in the space. Look into heritage shades for a period home, but don't feel bound to opt for them. Inject personality with bright hues on smaller items and keep larger expanses neutral.



NEUTRAL WONDER

Taupes add warmth to north-facing patios or cool down hotter plots

Umberstone (above) is a really versatile backdrop. Its underlying warmth makes it suitable for both north- and south-facing walls, and its neutrality means it would be a good background to either subtle green-grey planting or a more vibrant, exotic scheme. **JUDY SMITH** CROWN COLOUR CONSULTANT

Wonderfully accommodating, Ivory allows bold colours to steal the show and can complement other natural elements in the garden. South-facing spaces get lots of light so it will look brighter here, or use it to warm up the look of north-facing plots. **JOSEPHINE BENNETT** HEAD OF DESIGN, HOME, LAURA ASHLEY



Umberstone masonry paint, £29 for 5L, Sandtex



Ivory garden paint, £35 for 2.5L, Laura Ashley



SHADES OF NATURE

Sea and sky tones are a showstopping look for the garden

Tone-on-tone combinations are on trend now. Look out for soft ice-cream shades or muted pastels. I love this Dove Slate exterior satin on the door and Frosted Lake smooth masonry paint on the wall (above). **REBECCA WILLIAMSON** SENIOR COLOUR & DESIGN MANAGER, DULUX WEATHERSHIELD

Plum Tree No 283 is a deep shade akin to freshly picked plums. Classic and welcoming, it has kerb appeal and is fantastic on front doors. Softened by grassy hues and deepened by summer shadows, it's the perfect partner to brick, wood and slate. **DOMINIC MYLAND** MANAGING DIRECTOR, MYLANDS



Dove Slate, from £19.73 for 750ml; Frosted Lake, from £16.79 for 2.5L; Dulux Weathershield



Plum Tree No 283 Wood & Metal eggshell, £24 for 1L, Mylands

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE ★ FIND MORE COLOUR INSPIRATION AT housebeautiful.co.uk

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6 WAYS TO... CREATE AN OUTDOOR ROOM

Expert advice from interior designer and TV presenter Julia Kendell

1 POSITIONING AND SPACE

Think carefully about how you want to use the room and let this be your guide when planning its location and size. Garden rooms don't have to be restricted to the patio or close to the back of your property. Some of the most successful outdoor living spaces are hidden from view of the house and offer an entirely different aspect. A sunny spot will ensure that you get maximum use of the space if you're just creating a decking area with seating, but consider privacy by checking whether the site is overlooked.

2 CHOOSE A STRUCTURE

There are a great many custom-built solutions to choose from, ranging from mobile shepherd huts and fully constructed and insulated rooms to tented spaces, glass boxes and customised sheds. But if this 'room' is just going to be used during the summer months and you don't want anything as permanent as a building, you can create a simple and attractive area by arranging outdoor furniture on a raised deck or under the shade of an arbour or large tree. If you're taking this route, it's worth investigating the cost of installing outdoor lighting and heating (see Step 3), and having somewhere to plug in a sound system and other media. It's also helpful to have storage nearby to store cushions and blankets quickly when it rains and to provide a space for playing outdoor games.



Crane round pavilion summerhouse in Sage, £7,395; Hera two-seat wicker table, £199; Hera wicker armchair, £150; all John Lewis

3 EXTENDING THE EVENING

Outdoor heating can transform a garden room, making it possible to enjoy it in comfort late into the evening. A big brick outdoor fireplace with a chimney is an exciting way to take the indoors outside if you have a large patio. For a more flexible and movable option, a firepit will satisfy the primeval desire to sit around a fire and they're available in both traditional and contemporary designs. Choose the size carefully; a firepit that is too large will burn through a substantial amount of wood! Outdoor gas heaters are

effective, but are less environmentally friendly and can be expensive to run.

4 BLEND WELL

Integrating your outdoor room with the garden is important, so you can create a seamless visual flow between the two. One of the best ways of doing this is to use materials for both that complement your garden design. For example, keep wood unpainted in the interior of a summerhouse (see above) to match your fence. However, a stylish backdrop to an open seating area, whether a fence or fabric drape, will add height and definition.

5 LIMITED SPACE

If your open seating area is small, use a few visual tricks to make it appear bigger. Mirrors are useful for creating additional perspective and will also reflect candlelight beautifully in the evening. Take care that they're not in a spot where birds might accidentally fly into them though. A floating, built-in wall seat will increase the sense of floor area and can be underlit for an ethereal feel at night. And if you have no space to dot a few potted plants around your seating area, a planted wall can look fabulous – just pick up a living wall planter at your local garden centre.

6 COLOUR, PATTERN AND DECORATION

Bright colours and vivid patterns that might appear brash indoors can be very effective outdoors. Choose your palette with care, though, as it will determine the overall feel and energy of the space, whether bold and exciting or refined and relaxed. Cushions can add dramatic colour for seating, and bright hanging lanterns will draw the eye upwards. You can even define a seating area by painting a 'rug' on decking (using deck stains or exterior paint and stencil designs), or for a less permanent feature use a polypropylene easy-clean rug. **H3**



Similar cushions, Suzani, £38 each, Graham and Green. Similar lantern, Antique copper glass ball, £19.99, Namaste. For similar chairs, try Homebase

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BETTER THAN BESPOKE

Upcycling experts Jenny Lloyd and Jonathan Parkin give a new look to a vintage wickerwork laundry basket

● Visit our website housebeautiful.co.uk to find instructions for this makeover. Just search 'laundry basket'

White bobble bath mat, £15; Elodie, bamboo boxes, £10 for two; Egyptian cotton facecloth, £2; hand towels, £8 each; Poli Saffron Green soap dish, £7; all Habitat. Tealight holder, find similar at Future and Found



● Visit housebeautiful.co.uk to find instructions for this makeover. Just search 'laundry basket'

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

DESKTOP DARLINGS

Use soft pastels and pale-wood pieces to create a calm and contemporary workspace. You won't want to clock off



1 Blu Dot Stash white and ash **desk**, £365, Heal's **2** Ambrose Play table **lamp**, £75, Heal's **3** Desk **box set**, £39.50 for seven boxes, Hay at Present & Correct **4** Wood and brass **tape dispenser**, £25, Present & Correct **5** Striped wooden **rulers**, from £8 each,

Hay at Present & Correct **6** Coloured **gel pens**, £6 for eight, Paperchase **7** Casas **pencil holder** in Yellow, £32, Chocolate Creative **8 Notepad**, £2, Hema **9** Canvas **notebook**, £9.50, Hay at Paperchase **10** Colourblock **pen**, £3.50, Paperchase

11 Pegboard in White, £30, Rose and Grey **12** White frosted **scissors**, £1.75, Paperchase **13** String, £6.95, East of India at John Lewis **14** Ditsy heart **tape**, £2.50, Paperchase **15** Four-way **rubber bands**, £6.50 for 15, Paperchase **16** Desk **organiser** in beach



wood, £35, Chocolate Creative **17** The Forest Feast **cards and envelopes**, £13.99 for a 16-piece set, Abrams & Chronicle Books **18** Washi **tapes**, £3 each, Paperchase **19** **Notebooks and sketchbooks**, from a selection, John

Lewis, Paperchase and Present & Correct **20** Knuff plywood **magazine files**, £6.75 for two, Ikea **21** **Clips**, £1 for eight, Hema **22** Italian **stapler** in White, £17.50, Present & Correct **23** A4 large string and washer **envelope**, £2.50, Present & Correct

24 Lexon Glow **wall clock** in Blue, £29, John Lewis. Similar untreated **plywood** (in background), from £16.45 for a W607mm x L1,829mm x D6mm piece, B&Q **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

Kitchen - White Star with Matt Dakkar Tullymore Doors
Mrs Farmer, Tonbridge, Kent



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FAST FIX STORAGE

Clear the clutter with these neat DIY projects for every room

1 QUICK TO FIT

To make flatpack assembly easier than ever, Ikea has developed furniture that clicks together without fixings. The Regissor collection includes a two-door cabinet (two pictured), a bookcase, a coffee table with shelves and display cabinets. **Regissor cabinets, £165 each; Vastana/Vastanby table, £200; Bernhard chairs, £100 each; Lappljung Ruta rug, £55; all Ikea**



2



3

2 COLOUR COORDINATE

Untreated wooden shelves are inexpensive, easy to fit and can be painted in a shade to blend or contrast with your wall. For similar shelves try Ekby Jarpen/Ekby Valter, which you can paint to suit your scheme.

Kitchenware from the By Sainsbury's collection, from £6 for White and Black sugar storage, Sainsbury's

3 GET IT PEGGED

Keep towels and robes off bathroom countertops by fitting a peg rail high up either side of your basin. The Dormy House has MDF versions that come unpainted or in a choice of five colours, from £15 for a two-peg rail. **Nagoya floor cabinet, £129; mirror, £65; Floral towel, from £6 for a guest towel; all Marks & Spencer**

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4 BOXING CLEVER

Modular shelves can be arranged in any configuration to suit a host of storage needs and the wall space available. Each individual unit simply screws into the wall for a quick fit. **Inside wall unit, from £220 for H40cm x W40cm x D28cm, Calligaris**

**5 STORE ALL**

Organise bathroom bits and bobs, smaller kitchen items or even home office essentials in this industrial-chic shelf unit. Attaching it to the wall would take no more than half an hour but have all your DIY kit ready before you start for a fast finish.

Industrial-style metal shelves (H155cm x H64cm x D27cm), £120, Cox & Cox

**6 ON THE RAIL**

Have utensils and pans just where you need them most and free up important cupboard and drawer space by hanging them from a metal rail. Try Cox & Cox for a similar one in black or zinc, £30.

Collection cast-iron casserole dishes, from £40 for 3.3L; Collection cast-iron griddle pans, £25 each; cast-iron large flat grill, £25; all Sainsbury's

7 HANG IT UP

Save floor space by hanging coats, hats and scarves on this neat wall rack with vintage-style arms that offer plenty of room for several items of clothing. A drill, screws and Rawlplugs, suitable for your wall surface, are all you'll need to fit it – and a spirit level to make sure it's straight!

Wall-mounted coat rack (H130cm x W34cm x D25cm), £80, Cox & Cox



Oslo sofa, £899;
Valera sideboard,
£799; coffee table,
£249; nest of tables
£199; all Dwell

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To help you update your home for spring, Dwell is offering all House Beautiful readers an exclusive 20 per cent discount. Renowned for its stylish range of furniture, there's something for all areas of your home – from sofas and sideboards for the living room to beds for the bedroom. If it's a quick change you're after, there are plenty of beautiful accessories to choose from too.

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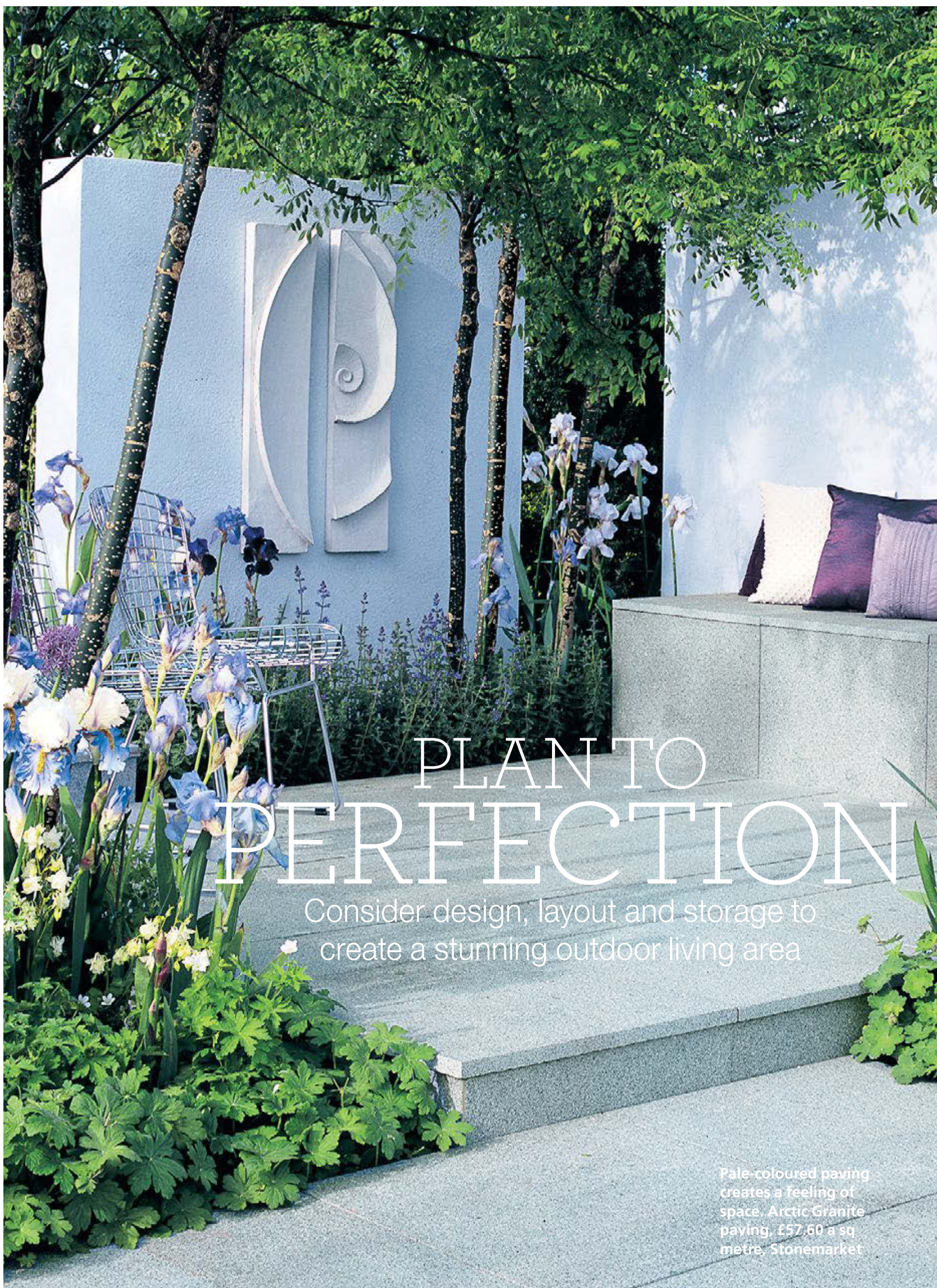


HB PROJECT GARDEN

PLANNING * STYLES * PLANTS * DETAILS

- 100** Plan to perfection
- 106** Ultimate guide to garden buys
- 112** Outdoor looks you'll love
- 118** Essentials and more
- 122** Where to buy

PHOTOGRAPH GAP PHOTOS/MICHAEL KING. DESIGN CLARE AGNEW DESIGN



PLANTO PERFECTION

Consider design, layout and storage to
create a stunning outdoor living area

Pale-coloured paving
creates a feeling of
space. Arctic Granite
paving, £57.60 a sq
metre, Stonemarket

First steps

Decide what you want from your outdoor area.

- A garden is full of potential, no matter what its current condition, and can be tailored to your particular needs. With a bit of thought, preparation and attention, it's possible to achieve the most amazing transformation.
- The best way to start the process is to define your priorities. Most people want somewhere to sit comfortably, so think about how you'd like that seating area to look and how big it should be. Would you prefer it in the sun or shade? Will it take up the whole of the garden? Do you want a dining table and chairs or to have more of a lounge area with sofas?
- As well as a place to relax you'll need practical areas to hang a washing line and store bins. You might also want space to grow vegetables. Maybe you need access to a gate or storage for bicycles somewhere. Have a think about all the uses you could make of this space.
- Define the sunniest and shadiest parts of the garden. This will determine the best areas to position plants and activity areas.
- If you're overlooked, decide if you want to screen off some areas for privacy.
- It also pays to consider what you love about your garden and what you don't. If you don't like something, can it be taken out? Or is there some way you can hide it? Often sheds can be dispensed with if you have a good clear out, but otherwise can be screened from view.

Finding inspiration

- Collect pictures of gardens that appeal to you. Mull over what it is in them that you like. You might think there's no way you could make your garden exactly like it, but you could recreate a similar kind of environment or just use some of the details.
- To find what atmosphere would suit you, decide if you



Fit high trellis to grow climbers over and create privacy. Using toning colours on different surfaces creates a harmonious look

Some garden designers will come for a consultation of just an hour or so and sort out problems and make suggestions on the spot. Try the Society of Garden Designers to find someone in your area

are a 'neat freak' or a 'messy Joe'. Are the pictures you like pristine and tidy or are plants hanging over paths, rose petals romantically left on the grass?

- Are you an open or closed garden person? Some gardens are closed in to create secret areas and magical winding

paths. In contrast, some are as open as possible showing the boundaries of the garden.

- Straight lines or curves? Go with curves for an immediately softer effect that looks more romantic. If you opt a design with straight lines, your garden is likely to have a more open,

modern and geometric feel.

- Lastly look at the details of your pictures – colours, ornaments, plants, paving. Make a note of any walls, fences or hedges you like as these are the sorts of things that will adapt to any garden.

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Preparing the way

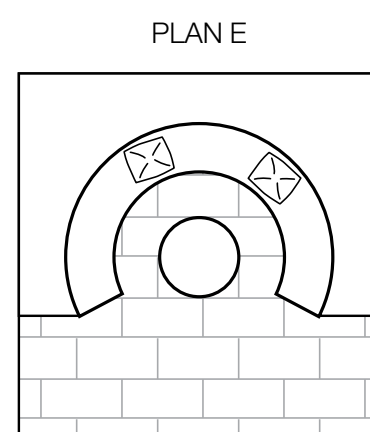
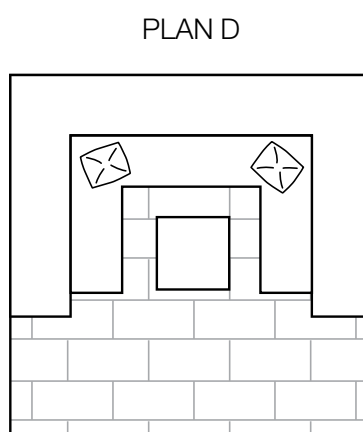
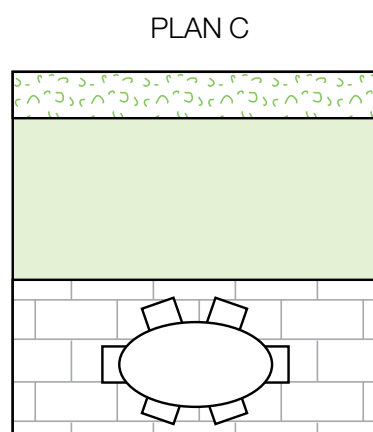
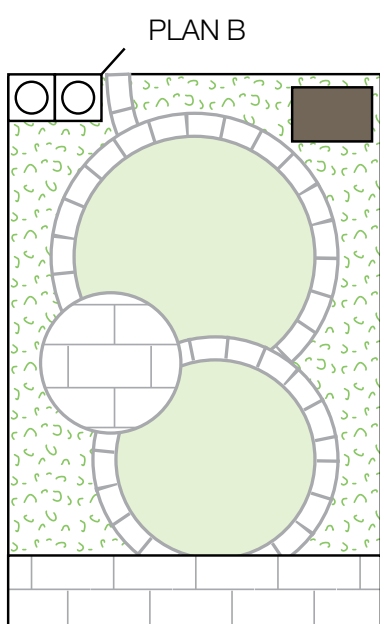
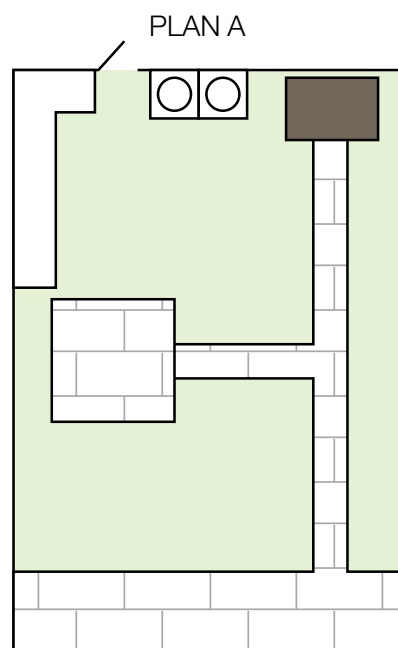
- First rearrange things within the garden to create spaces that garden designers call rooms.
- The idea of making rooms is important and easy to demonstrate by creating a plan. For instance, you may want to have a sitting area in the sunniest spot, halfway down your garden, as well as a shed and a bin at the rear and paths to the shed and sitting area. Plan A below incorporates all these elements but the overall scheme is a bit bland and unimaginative.
- However, by first creating two rooms, which consist of circular lawns, as illustrated in plan B, the same elements, in similar positions, will look so much better.
- In a small garden where you want to socialise with friends,

it could be tempting to build a big patio with a patch of grass in front and a row of plants at the far end. This is like using half a living room and feels unbalanced; see plan C.

● Instead treat the whole space as a room by putting the seating area in middle. In plan D, a built-in seating area is surrounded by plants and is much more inviting. There's no grass but with all those plants, the plan appears much softer than the first version.

● Once you have an idea of where and how big the rooms or areas are going to be, think about how to define them. The outlines could be curved or straight. Plan E shows a curved seating area for a more gentle style than plan D.

● Your choice of paving and surfaces will affect the scene. Light, regular-sized, tile-like options will create a modern and clean appearance whereas random-sized natural stone will look more romantic and cottagey. Walls with smooth, painted render will look more contemporary than brick-built or wooden fences and trellis.



Finding the right plants

- * Once you know the aspect of your beds: sunny, shady, moist or dry, select plants naturally adapted to that setting. Think of new beds as a long-term plan and in the beginning keep your selection simple and limit the number of types you include. Also limit your choice of colours to three or four and buy plants in groups of odd numbers of at least three to give impact.
- * Keep in mind how big shrubs and trees are likely to grow and also how much maintenance they might need.
- * The Royal Horticultural Society's website has a great plant search facility at [rhs.org.uk/plants](https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants). Put in exactly what you need and suitable plants will come up.



Curves and circles are the starting point for many successful designs, as this newly planted garden shows

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Low-growing plants soften the hard lines of the garden room, which has its own small patio in paving that matches the path. Westmoor Crest
Yorkstone paving, £121.20 a sq metre, Stonemarket

Doing the work

- Creating a new garden takes a lot of building work: laying paving, erecting walls and making ponds, so unless you're a keen DIYer it might be best to employ a professional.
- There is plenty you can do yourself, such as clearing the site. Even if it's just getting rid of old toys, unwanted plants and furniture, you can make a huge difference. Either rent a skip for the weekend or bag it up and take it to the recycling centre.
- Once the garden is clear and tidy, you can mark out what you want to go where with line marking spray paint, available from builders' merchants, to get an idea of how it might look. Measure and mark out the ground where the different rooms and sitting areas might go. Take your time and live with this for a while to imagine how it will work.
- Reshaping the lawn is easy and you can transform your

garden in an afternoon. Mark out the new shape you want and then cut away any excess, using a spade.

- If you want to make the lawn bigger, buy pieces of lawn turf from a garden centre. Spring and autumn are the main times for this but if you can keep it well watered, it can be done through the summer. Make sure the ground is completely flat – raking and walking on it to make sure it's as even as possible before you start. Lay turfs closely together and try not to walk on them for a few weeks.

- It is possible to lay a gravel path in an afternoon. First, scrape out grass or soil to form the path then hold back the edges with a metal edging such as Everedge, which pokes into the ground. After that simply pour on the gravel. To prevent weeds coming through, first lay a water-permeable membrane but try not to make it too thick or it will be difficult to walk on.



Opera Marron paving, £48 a sq metre, Stonemarket

Design tricks for success

- * Light your garden to brighten dark afternoons and evenings so the view outside your window is magical all year round.
- * You can be very creative with lighting design and change your garden dramatically. For example, uplighters can shine beautifully through trees, or small wall-fitted lights will make stairs eye-catching and safer. Most permanent lighting requires installation by a professional electrician. Some companies, such as John Cullen Lighting, will do a plan for you.
- * An inexpensive idea is to hang warm, white fairy lights. Try lights4fun.co.uk and wind them through hedges or tape them under benches for a soft glow.
- * Another option is to go for wall- or ground-fixed good quality solar lights so you don't have to worry about electricity. **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

Even in a confined area
it's possible to fit a small
water feature and an
outdoor eating area



ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GARDEN BUYS

Plan the outdoor space of your dreams
with key pieces and expert advice

Bring wooden surfaces
to life with colour and a
protective finish. Cuprinol
Garden Shades, £11.99
for 1L or £22.99 for 2.5L

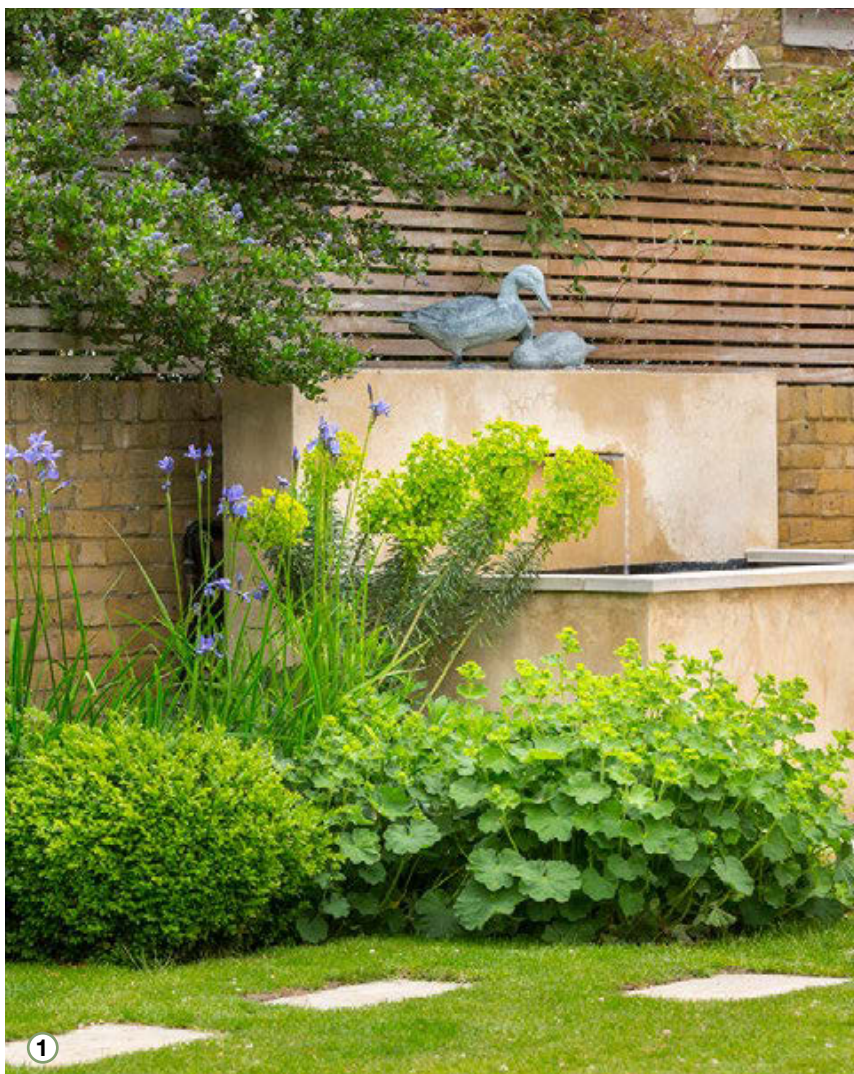
CREATE PRIVACY

* Trellis and fencing separate your garden from the surrounding area and provide shade and protection. Hardwoods such as oak or cedar will last longest, or look for pressure-treated soft woods. Check if the wood is FSC approved.

* Fence posts should be set into firm ground at a minimum of 50cm deep. The hole should be at least 20cm larger than the post all the way round to provide enough room so that it can be set solidly in place.

* Postmix fast-setting concrete is ideal; use props to hold the post upright in the hole while it sets.

* Placing gravel boards at the base of the fencing prevents moisture damage to the panels.



1 Standing tall Additional height can be created above existing brick walls by fixing stylish cedar slatted fencing. Similar designs are available from £1,500, Ginkgo Gardens **2 Behind the screens** Horizontal slats give a degree of privacy while allowing light through. Western Red Cedar slatted screen kits to cover 1.83m x 1.83m, £154.21, Silva Timber **3 New wave** A trellis with a curved top divides areas or softens the boundary. Elite St Meloir FSC wood panel, £69.99 for 180cm x 180cm, Grange

'The best way to divide up your garden is with lovely trellis panels. When growing climbers on them you can choose how dense the planting will be.' Dan Curran, director, Ginkgo Gardens

ADD COLOUR

* Use primer on untreated wood followed by undercoat and exterior paint.

* Sand down previously painted wood, then apply undercoat and topcoat.

* Red oxide primer is ideal for metal as it slows down the rusting process. Finish with an exterior oil-based gloss. Spray paint such as Rust-oleum is good for intricate shapes.



1 Hello sunshine Brighten a shed door with a lick of sunny yellow. Buttered Corn Exterior Trim paint with mould-, mildew- and algae-resistant coating, £27 for 1L or £38 for 2.5L, Valspar **2 Green light** Environmentally friendly Ecos Paints' gloss for outdoor wood or metal is available in 180 colours. Savoy Red gloss, £20.18 for 1L **3 Easy does it** Protect your shed, fences and wooden furniture while giving them a fresh new look. Cuprinol Garden Shades, £22.99 for 2.5L, comes in 95 ready-mixed colours

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SUMMER HOUSES

- * If the building is less than 2.5m high you won't need planning permission but visit planningportal.gov.uk to find out more.
- * Consider whether you'll use your summer house for relaxing, as an extra room for hobbies or as a home office.
- * For year-round use, make sure it has double glazing and an insulated roof and floor. More expensive designs come with optional heating and electrics.
- * When measuring space in your garden, leave at least half a metre around the summerhouse for maintenance.
- * Corner designs fit neatly into often wasted space and offer a great view of the garden.



1 Space saver Use the corner of the garden for a pretty summerhouse. Fifth Avenue design with a variety of door styles and ready to paint. Delivered self-assembly, £1,535, with installation from £600, Garden Affairs **2 Child's play** This garden den is made of weather-resistant redwood timber and is delivered self-assembly with a wooden floor. Hidey Hole playhouse, £461, Dorothy & Theodore **3 Budget buys** Tesco Direct's summerhouses start from £197 and this Mercia corner option is good value at £749

'A simple garden shed can be transformed with a good woodstain and by using slates on the roof rather than the usual roofing felt.' Dan Curran, director, Ginkgo Gardens

EXTRAS

- * For added interest choose a sturdy arbour or pergola; they're perfect for supporting climbers and dividing the space.
- * Pick a position such as beside a path or in a corner for seating, where you have a good view of the whole garden.
- * Wood can look attractive, but metal gives a lighter effect.



1 Romantic walkway There's plenty of scope for summer climbers with this Roman pergola, from £425 for a three-section base unit, Harrod Horticultural **2 Ready to rock** Swing seats are a real delight for young and old. Handcrafted in FSC-certified timbers, this pergola with a two-seater swing costs from £2,806, Sitting Spiritually **3 Time for a rest** You can display climbers up and over this wooden Forest Garden Beethoven arbour, £349.99, Wickes, and then sit back to enjoy the fragrance and shade

SMALL SHEDS AND BOXES

- * Choose an option that's attractive and the best quality you can afford.
- * Think about the view from your house, gate or patio and how you'd like the shed to fit in.
- * To make sure you get one the right size, make a list of everything you need to store and what else you need to use the space for. Is it somewhere for potting or woodworking too?
- * Timber designs that are treated then painted or stained will wear well.
- * Keep possessions secure with door locks, seals and hinges that meet domestic security standards. A store without windows reduces the chance of a break-in and it may be worth fitting security lights or shutters.



1 Wheel it in Keep scooters safe in the Shack Up Tri Door bike store by Hemingway Design, £399, Worldstores **2 Clever disguise** Cover up bins with this stained-spruce cupboard, £252, Garden Trading **3 Solid stuff** Metal sheds come pre-painted and are fire- and rot-resistant, so are low maintenance. Rowlinson Woodvale double sliding doors create easy access. £259, Heritage Gardens **4 Tooling up** Robust storage for garden tools needn't break the budget. Overlap Apex shed in 8mm-thick dip-treated overlap timber, £159.99, Wickes

Decide whether you can build your own shed from a self-assembly kit or if you need an installation service, which may add to the cost. And always check how it's going to be delivered before you buy

NEAT IDEAS

- * If space is limited, look for dual or multipurpose pieces and shelves that stack up to make the most of every inch.
- * Use labels on boxes so you can find what you need in a hurry.
- * Colourful pots will brighten up a bland shed while wooden crates add a rustic look.



1 Make it personal Keep bulbs and seeds easily accessible in this small wooden apple crate with a lid, £25.95, Plantabox. It can also be personalised with up to 18 characters a line **2 Two for one** This double-purpose Heart Storage Bench has a lift-up seat lid so it can be used to store cushions and seat pads, £499.99, The Garden Furniture Centre **3 Ready to display** Stack plants and anything else you fancy – such as food and plates for alfresco eating – on this stylish plant stand, £78.95, Miafleur

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DECKING

- * Wood is the most popular material for decking. Close-grained hardwoods tend to last longest while cedar has a natural resistance to water and sunlight.
- * Other options include composite. It has the advantage of being ecofriendly but can't be stained or coloured. Alternatively you could try aluminium for a modern look or PVC vinyl, which keeps costs down.
- * Build a deck yourself if you're handy with a hammer but, if you want the professionals to do it, it will cost from around £250 to £500.



1 Timber lookalike Ideal for young and old, Weathered Vintage Millboard Composite decking is anti-slip, maintenance-free and doesn't need staining. It's £65.47 for a 20cm x 360cm board, Garden House Design **2 Something to lean on** Provide safety on a raised area with Classic Decking Balustrades, £35 a metre, Richard Burbidge. They're easy to fit together and ideal for adding to existing decking **3 Safe landing** Wickes' Treated Pine garden 3.6m boards are made from slow-grown Scandinavian Pine for a stable surface. £9.48 for a board

Look for the DeckMark symbol from the Timber Decking Association as an indicator of good quality materials

DECKING FINISHES

- * As it's exposed to the elements, decking needs some looking after.
- * Specialist decking stains and protectors are quick drying and easy to apply. Some use the sun's UV rays to activate a hardwearing finish.
- * Anti-slip decking oils provide added safety.



1 Touch wood Exotic woods will need an oil- or wax-based finish to protect the surface, and make it water resistant and dirt repellent. Osmo's microporous finishes, based on natural vegetable oils, allow the wood to breathe. From £19.24 for 750ml **2 Tough protection** Preserve your decking with Sadolin's Decking & Stain Protector, £35.99 for 2.5L, Homebase. Golden Brown has a rich, warm look **3 Easy all-in-one** Cuprinol's Total Deck, £34.99 for 2.5L, contains nourishing oils and UV filters and can be applied in one coat with a garden broom

PAVING

- * The smooth surface of a paved patio or terrace is the perfect spot for outdoor entertaining.
- * There's plenty of choice, from classic natural stone to new materials such as porcelain. Marry your choice to the age and style of your property
- * Stone needs to be at least 3cm thick and a more textured surface will give better non-slip qualities.
- * Large-format tiles need less grout but they may be harder to lay, especially if they have a square-cut edge. If you're not confident about doing it yourself, ask your supplier if it offers an installation service.
- * Wash down regularly with a stiff broom and invest in a good quality sealer to help combat stains and weeds.



1 Ethically sourced Make outdoors just as smart as indoors with elegant, lightly textured, pale sandstone. The Fairstone range's Beachside is from £48 a sq metre, Stonemarket **2 Something simple** Contemporary design should be unfussy so check out Bradstone's new Mode porcelain collection for an ultra-modern look. It has a profiled Graphite finish and anti-slip texture and costs from £55 a sq metre **3 Round in circles** Make a feature with circular paving. Abbey Circle 2.4m comes in Antique or York Gold, £199.99, Kelkay

Consider laying an edging kerb to give your patio or paved area definition. It will also help to keep the slabs securely in place

LIGHTING

- * Outdoor lighting can create atmosphere after the sun goes down, especially when you're entertaining.
- * Lanterns and tealights are perfect for a soft glow in the evening. Choose citronella candles to keep insects away.
- * Energy efficient bulbs are cheaper to run.



1 String 'em up Teardrop festoon lights, with indoor transformer, from £35 for an 80cm length, Cox & Cox **2 Bottle it** Add a pop of colour with this tealight holder, £2.99, Potter & Rest **3 Shine on** Gleaming copper brings a stylish note. Shipyard wall light, £459, Davey Lighting **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**

OUTDOOR LOOKS YOU'LL LOVE

Design a garden to reflect your tastes
and enjoy it for years to come



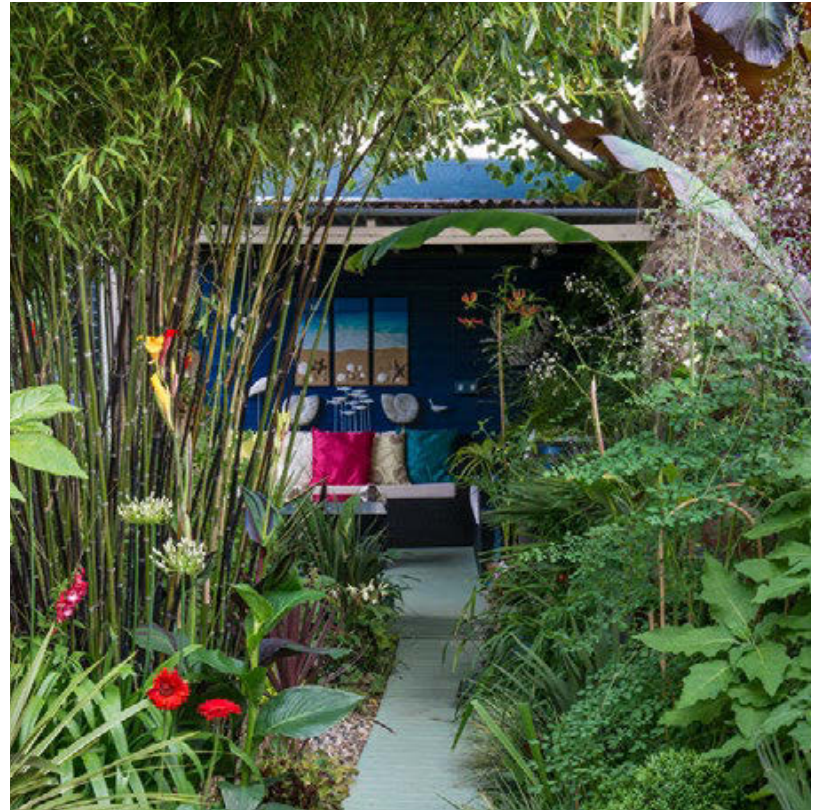
ZEN LIVING

Soothing surroundings make modern
gardens perfect for relaxing

Prairie planting ● A courtyard garden designed by Tracy Foster features a slightly raised seating area under a wooden framed ceiling, creating a cosy corner from which the garden can be enjoyed. Behind are a bespoke wall mosaic and pot plants, which transport interior design elements outdoors ● Walls and paving are both in a soft buff shade that sets off deep colours well ● Orange cushions on black all-weather woven armchairs add vibrant splashes and are easily changed to create a different look ● The colour scheme is echoed in the beds of Stipa and Calamagrostis grasses, red and yellow achilleas and red hot pokers ● For a sophisticated evening and night-time ambience, use garden lights to cast soft colour washes onto plain walls, creating a magical environment



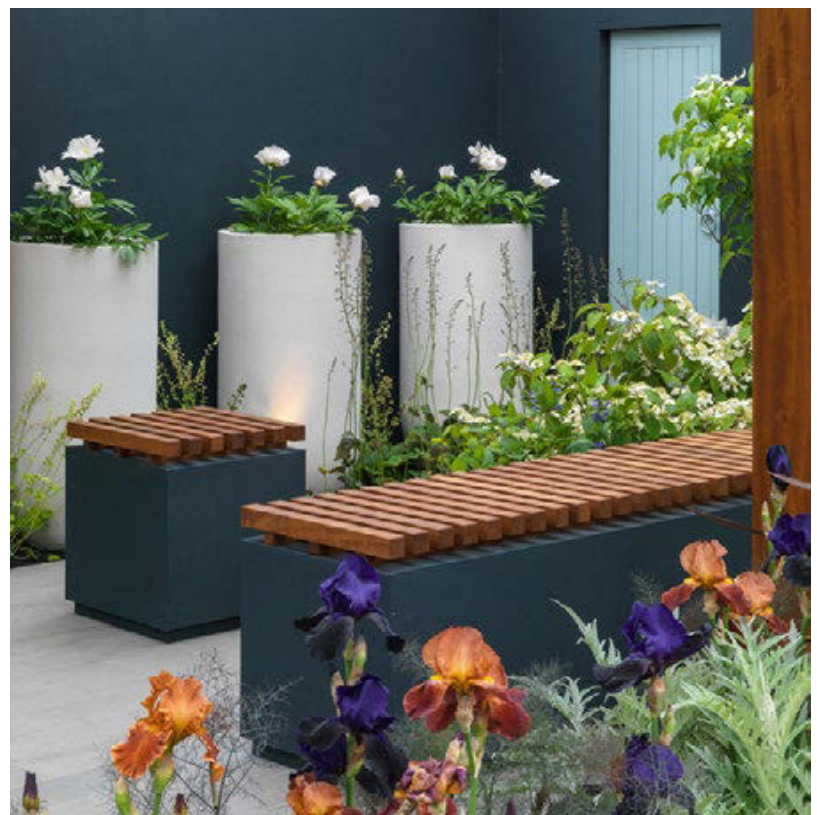
Calming curves ● If you have a tiny plot keep the design simple and avoid too many different hard landscaping materials. The grey of this granite setts path is echoed in the bark of the silver birches ● High walls could make a confined space seem dark, but painting them pale lemon gives a light, airy feel ● Planting focuses on tranquil greens from hostas, euonymus, euphorbia and box ● The oak bench curves round the courtyard, beneath a porthole that lets in sunlight



Jungle look ● Create an informal scheme with towering tropical foliage plants such as palms, cannas and bananas ● Bamboos, too, are marvellous for screening or can be used as dramatic clumps. Take care to choose varieties that are not overly invasive ● Short lengths of timber decking make a straight or curved flexible boardwalk ● Painted grey-green, this one leads to a colourful beach-themed hideaway at the rear



Vintage mix ● A dining area is the central focus of this courtyard, overlooked by a divided metal mirror ● In this 13-metre-long garden, diagonally laid flagstones make it seem wider ● A black painted brick wall makes the surface seem further away than it is ● Candles give atmospheric light for evenings ● Birds can mistake the reflection on large mirrors for the real thing and fly into it so use stickers on mirrors to prevent accidents



Urban chic ● In this courtyard the emphasis is on decorative flooring, statement plants and fabulous dark blue painted surfaces. White flowers stand out crisply against the blue background ● Repeating features, such as these three large pots planted with peonies, give the small space unity ● Pale stone paving strips are laid running across the space, creating an illusion of greater width

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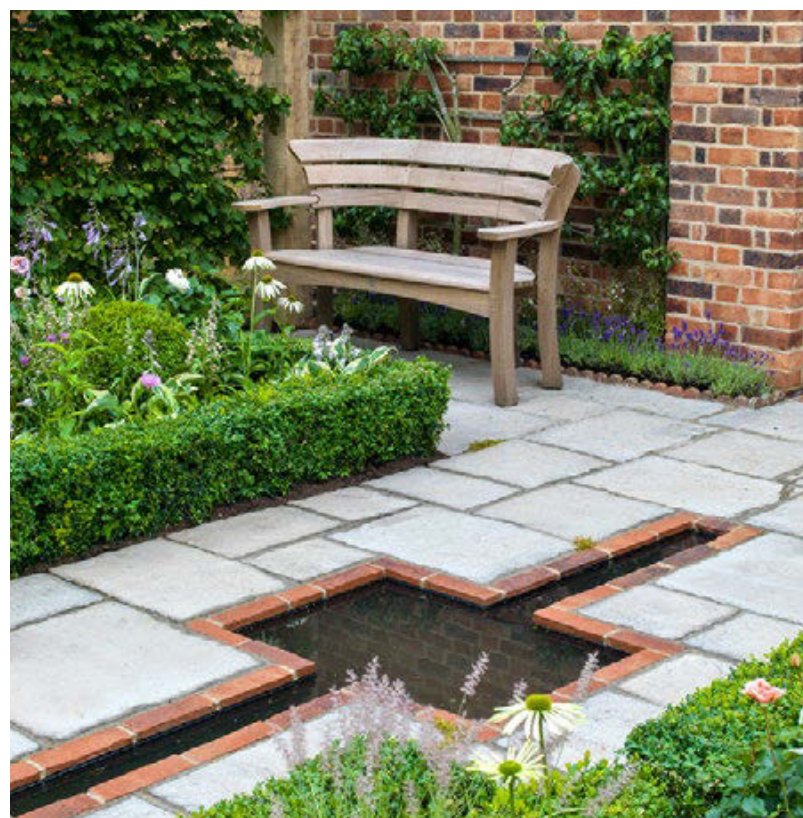
TRADITIONAL LOOKS

The stylish simplicity of a formal layout is ideal for a town garden

Grand Illusion ● A carefully arranged pattern of edged borders that relies on evergreens will look neat and be low maintenance. For year-round interest choose plants such as ligustrum standards, yew hedging and box shaped as cones and balls. These will need trimming once or twice a year ● Rendered warm white walls form a light backdrop to the plants ● This plot, overshadowed by trees, needs shade-tolerant plants such as hostas, heucherellas, tiarellas, hardy geraniums and golden euonymous. They have been planted densely to cover the ground and minimise the amount of weeding needed ● Plants that offer additional seasonal colour have been grown in wooden planters painted to match the woodwork on the house



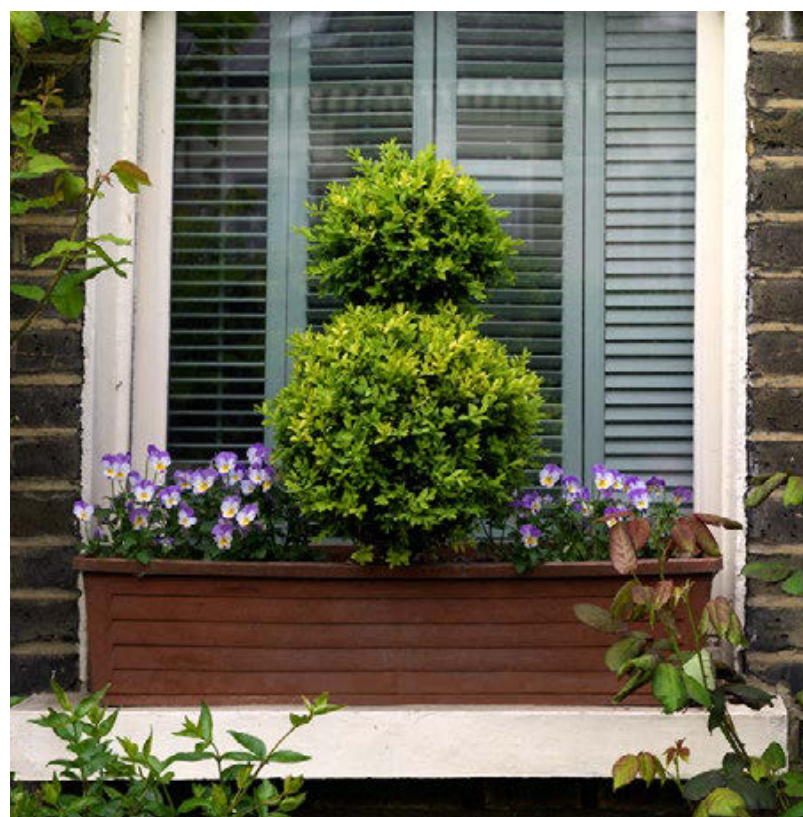
Classical courtyard ● Clipped topiary spirals, cones and balls create a living structure, while seasonal flowers add colour and soften the edges of the paving ● A horse head statue raised on a plinth is a striking focal point ● Wooden trellises create low cost, simple screens. Grow roses and clematis up them, as well as evergreen climbers such as honeysuckle, jasmine or ivy to reinforce privacy and soften unwelcome noise



Secret sanctuary ● New gardens are often small and rectangular – the whole space visible at a glance. Compensate for this lack of interest and variety by adding perfectly proportioned structures and imaginative touches ● Here, the red brick-edged water feature runs centrally, with a stylish Gaze Burvill bench to one side offering a place to rest ● The layout is based on symmetrical paved areas and linear paths with clean lines and sharp edges



Edible beauty ● Traditional potagers, or kitchen gardens, are an arrangement of rectangular beds filled with fruit, herbs and veg, separated by straight paths in grass, gravel or brick ● This versatile idea can be shrunk or enlarged to suit gardens of different sizes and shapes ● A central feature such as a sundial or urn adds a hub round which the layout can be formed ● Height is added to beds with runner beans or sweet peas trained up cane wigwams



Timeless appeal ● Even a windowsill can be made into a formal statement ● Lightweight, plastic window boxes not only provide a good depth of soil to keep plants healthy, but also retain moisture better in hot spells than their heavier terracotta counterparts ● For this shady sill, box topiary surrounded by annual violas creates a long-lasting show ● The high rounded shapes give some privacy inside the room too

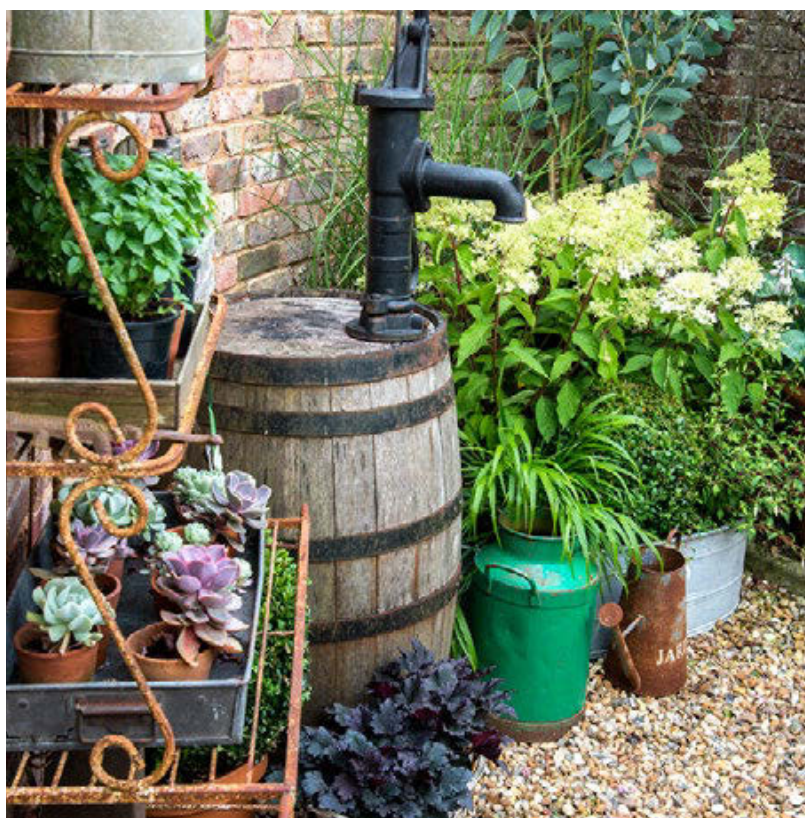
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COUNTRY CHIC

Bring the romance of summer flowers, foliage and fragrance into your garden with this perennial favourite

Perfectly planted ● Aquilegias, verbascum and clematis all growing in a glorious muddle of flower and foliage are the essence of cottage garden style ● Despite this apparently haphazard approach, the prettiest examples are planned to make a good balance between abundance and practicality ● This style is versatile, suiting both town or rural settings, provided the site is open and sunny ● It's also ideal for small spaces such as a single bed, especially when it's contained within walls or hedges. Bed's planted in this cottage garden style mature quickly with perennials planted in spring flowering profusely within months and improving as the years go by ● Self-seeders such as honesty and aquilegias offer an essential element of surprise and change



Weathered wonder ● Many characterful ornaments can be unearthed in reclamation yards, car boot sales or auctions ● Weathered wooden barrels, galvanised watering cans and buckets, recycled tools, discarded pumps or rusty ironwork can be arranged as features in your garden to give individuality ● Keep wooden finishes natural, and hasten lichen growth on unweathered surfaces with coats of live goat's milk yogurt



Almost overgrown ● Cottage garden style is a blissfully informal and spontaneous way of planting ● It's a chance to try out new plants, maybe making a few mistakes along the way, but having fun in the process ● Grow plants such as campanula, marguerites and hardy geraniums beside winding pathways, allowing them to flop over the edges ● Add herbs such as rosemary and lavender, that will release their aromas when brushed against



Blooming passion ● Roses are a 'must' to climb up obelisks, scale walls or bloom among perennials ● David Austen's roses (above) combine the beauty and scent of old-fashioned varieties, but are bred to have longer flowering periods. Those with the RHS's Award of Garden Merit are disease resistant ● Anchor rambling roses to walls and choose obelisks in blackened steel or wood for climbers



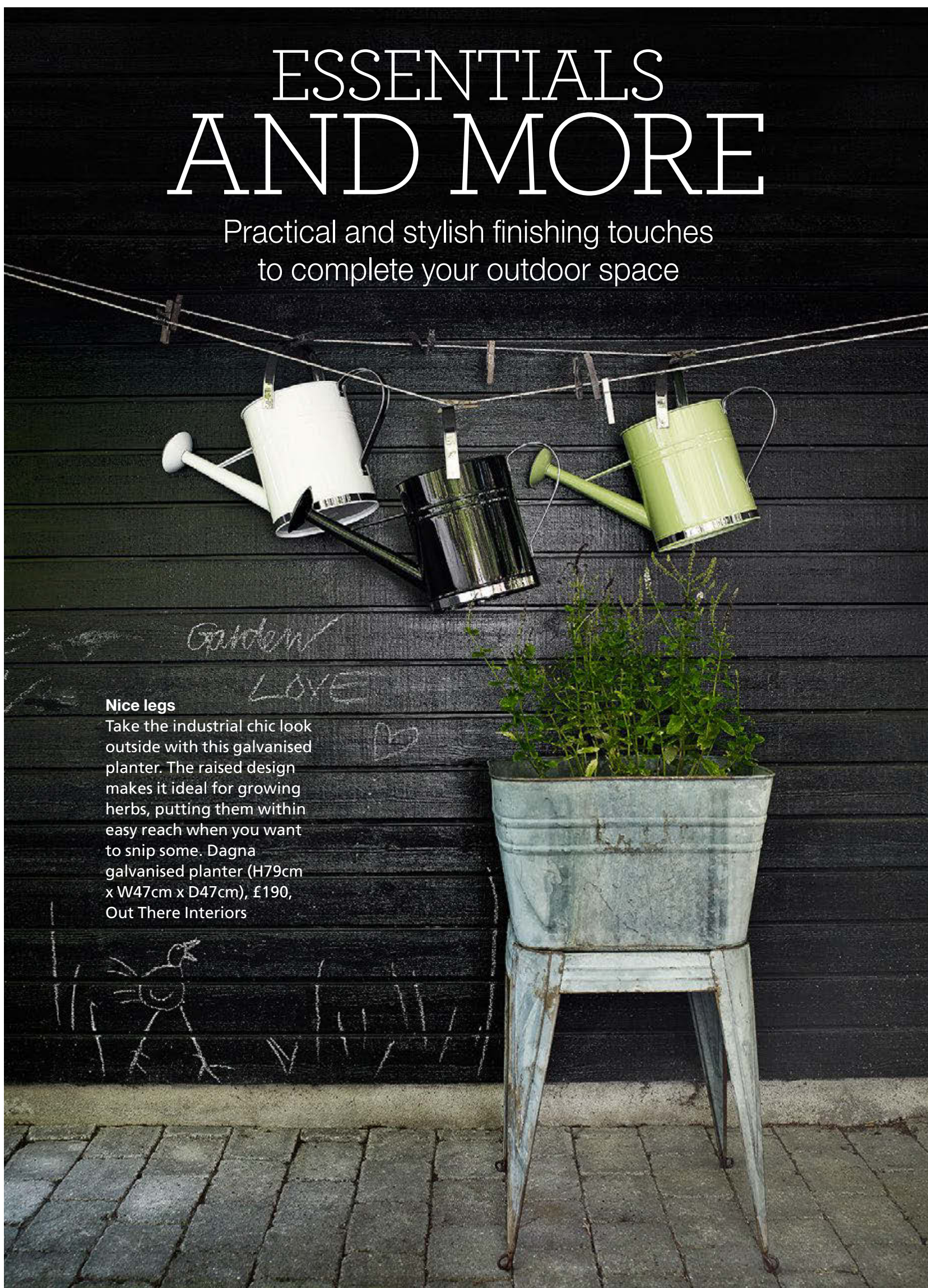
Wildlife haven ● Butterflies, bees and birds are drawn by plants rich in nectar ● Coneflowers and buddleja attract clouds of butterflies, while pink clover and scabious are a magnet for bees. By autumn, their seedheads provide food for birds ● Wildflowers are a valuable nectar source: try replacing an area of lawn with a small meadow of daisies, poppies, toadflax and cornflowers **HB**

ESSENTIALS AND MORE

Practical and stylish finishing touches
to complete your outdoor space

Nice legs

Take the industrial chic look outside with this galvanised planter. The raised design makes it ideal for growing herbs, putting them within easy reach when you want to snip some. Dagna galvanised planter (H79cm x W47cm x D47cm), £190, Out There Interiors





1



2

Contemporary flair

1 Look and listen There's nothing more relaxing than the sound of babbling water in the garden. This sculptural polished sandstone birdbath comes as a kit with a pump and decorative cobbles at the base. Shark honed birdbath water feature kit (H60cm x D45cm), from £739, Foras Stone

2 Light weight Moving heavy pots around can be hard work, so if you like to rearrange the garden from time to time, go for fibreglass designs as they're much lighter than clay or stone. Another advantage they have is that they're frostproof and won't discolour in the sun. Look for geometric designs in bright white to add a modern edge. Quilted-effect garden planter, from £59 for 40cm x 40cm, Ingarden

3 Easy update Add a splash of summer colour to a windowsill or outdoor table with a trio of bright pots in a handy wirework tray. Plant up

with orange marigolds for a dramatic display. Ritson pots on green tray, £15, Habitat

4 Practically perfect Make watering the pots a stylish affair with this five-litre watering can. The mid-century modern pattern is taken from a 1950s fabric, now in the V&A archive collection. Palamos watering can, £34.95, V&A collection, Wild & Wolf

5 Play time Take a break from the pruning and play a quick game of noughts and crosses. In natural stone this fun piece could double as a table and can be left outside all year round. Stone Cross Game (D60cm), £249, John Lewis

6 Time piece With just one glance at this contemporary wall-hung clock, made from recycled material, you'll know the time, temperature and the moon's cycle. Ashortwalk's Eco moon/temp/time clock (H15cm x W35cm), £34.95, John Lewis



3



4



5



6



On display Swirl 3 hanging pots, £12.99; tiered three-shelf planter, £19.99; wooden barrel, £19.99; zinc planter, £17.99; silver watering can pot, £3.99; Grow Your Own picture labels £1.99; D alphabet mug, £4; all Dobbies



1



2

Classically elegant

1 Sweet tweet Welcome birds into your garden with this pretty decorated feeder. It stands on a one-metre-high stake, can be left out all year and has a hole in the base to allow excess rainwater to drain out. Porcelain bird feeder on stake, £14.99, Crocus

2 Space maker Create the illusion of extra space by placing this arched window mirror against a wall or nestle it in hedge and grow your climbing plants up and around it. Outdoor arched window mirror (H139cm x W64cm), £125, Cox & Cox


3 Make an entrance Frame a doorway with smart wooden containers planted with perfectly trimmed topiary. Southrop planters come in plain oak or a painted finish and three sizes. From £145 for H48cm x D48cm x W48cm, Neptune

4 Lock up Keep your shed door or garden gate safely locked with this useful bird-shaped

padlock. Handpainted with a distressed finish, it comes with two keys. Bird padlock (W19cm x H12cm x D2.5cm), £34.99, The Oak Room

5 Smart sign A neat wooden sign to hang on your shed door will age with time, blending in with your garden. Wooden garden sign (W58cm x H15cm), £29.50, Marks & Spencer

6 Ring my bell Much more attractive than a plastic buzzer, this traditional cast-iron door bell has a sweet, bird design, and the ringing bell sounds lovely too. Deux Oiseaux door bell, £28.50, Boutique Provencale

7 Hot sculpture Stay warm on chilly evenings with this unusual handcrafted firepit. The steel ball is cut out to depict a country scene with wild animals surrounded by trees. English Country Garden Ball steel fire pit (D65cm), £849, The Fire Pit Company 



4



5



3



6



7

WHERE TO BUY

Annabel James 0845 548 0210;
annabeljames.co.uk

B&Q 0333 014 3098; diy.com

Boutique Provençale 0800 954 0232;
boutiqueprovencale.co.uk

Bradstone 01335 372289; bradstone.com
Cox & Cox 0844 858 0744;
coxandcox.co.uk

Crocus 01344 578000; crocus.co.uk

Cuprinol 0333 222 7171; cuprinol.co.uk

Dar Lighting 01295 672200;
darlighting.co.uk

Davey Lighting 01993 882251;
davey-lighting.co.uk

Dekton 01256 761229; dekton.co.uk

Dobbies Garden Centres 0131 561
6406; dobbies.com

Dorothy & Theodore 0121 288 3244;
dorothyandtheodore.com

Ecos Paints 01524 852371;
ecosorganicpaints.co.uk

Fencefins 01962 849510;
steadypost.co.uk

Foras Stone 01366 381069; foras.co.uk

Fritz Fryer 01989 567416; fritzfryer.co.uk

Garden Affairs 01225 774566;
gardenaffairs.co.uk

Garden Furniture Centre (The) 01564
793652; gardenfurniturecentre.co.uk

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Griffin Glasshouses 01962 772512;
griffinglasshouses.com

Habitat 0344 499 1111; habitat.co.uk

Hammerite 0333 222 7171;
hammerite.co.uk

Harrod Horticultural 0845 402 5300;
harrodhorticultural.com

Hayes Garden World 01539 433434;
hayesgardenworld.co.uk

Heritage Gardens 0800 694 1841;
heritagegardens.co.uk

Ikea 020 3645 0000; ikea.com

Indigenous 01993 824200;
indigenous.co.uk

Ingarden 01732 832299; ingarden.co.uk

John Lewis 0345 604 9049; johnlewis.com

Kelkay 01405 869333; kelkay.co.uk

Laura Ashley 0871 983 5999;
lauraashley.com

Marks & Spencer 0333 014 8000;
marksandspencer.com

Miafleur 0116 298 6393; miafleur.com

Moore Designs 01444 473898;
mooredesigns.co.uk

Neptune neptune.com

notonthehighstreet.com 0345 259 1359

Oak Room (The) 01707 257175;
oakroomshop.co.uk

Osmo 01296 481220; osmouk.com

Out There Interiors 020 8099 7443;
outthereinteriors.com

Plantabox 01392 829977; plantabox.co.uk

Potter & Rest 01278 440500;
potterandrest.co.uk

Primrose 0118 903 5210; primrose.co.uk

Range (The) 0845 026 7598; therange.co.uk

Richard Burbidge 01691 678300;
richardburbidge.com

Royal Horticultural Society
0845 260 5000; rhs.org.uk

Rust-Oleum 0191 410 6611;
rustoleumspraypaint.com

Sadolin 0844 770 8998; sadolin.co.uk

Sainsbury's 0800 636262; sainsburys.co.uk

Sandtex 0845 618 3004; sandtex.co.uk

Silva Timber 0151 495 3111
or 01895 271 300; silvatimber.co.uk

Sitting Spiritually 01297 443084;
sittingspiritually.co.uk

Society of Garden Designers
01989 566 695; sgd.org.uk

Stone & Ceramic Warehouse Paving
020 8993 5545; sacwpaving.co.uk

Stonemarket 0345 302 0603;
stonemarket.co.uk

Suttons Seeds 0333 400 2899; suttons.co.uk

Tesco Direct 0330 123 4050;
tesco.com/direct

Valspar 0844 736 9174; valsparpaint.co.uk

Wickes 0330 123 4123; wickes.co.uk

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OFFER 2 Buddleja 'Buzz Magenta' A new twist on a much-loved garden favourite, 'Buzz'™ is the world's first patio Buddleja! This is easy to grow and problem-free with a super-long flowering period. Height and spread, 120cm. Buy one jumbo plug plant for £7.99.

OFFER 3 Clematis 'Montana Mayleen' It could almost be known as the 'mile-a-minute' clematis due to its rapid growth. 'Mayleen' is the best-scented clematis Montana too, with delightful satin-pink ruffled blooms. Height 10m, spread 3m. Buy one 7cm potted plant for £9.99. Buy three 7cm potted plants for £19.99. RRP £29.97, saving £9.98.

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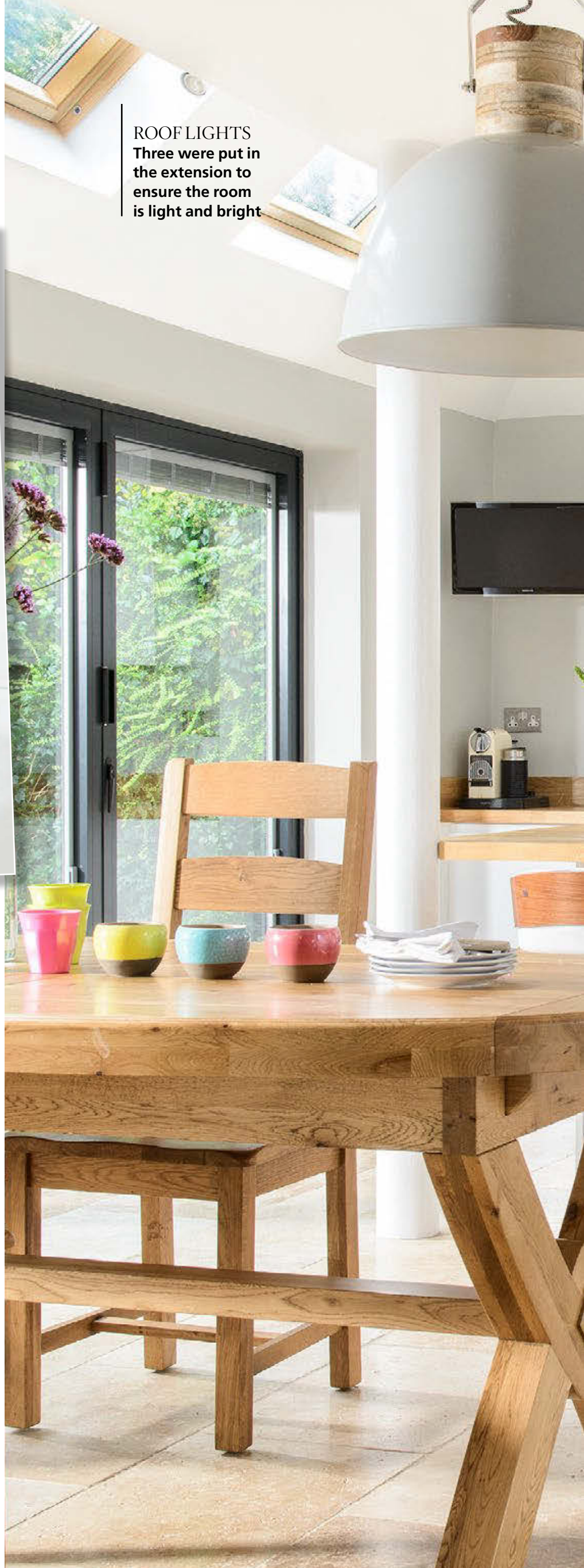


ROOFLIGHTS
Three were put in
the extension to
ensure the room
is light and bright

ROOM FOR EVERYONE

Extending across the back of this house made space for a dream family kitchen. Lizzie Cusack, 41, her husband Mark, 43, and their four children have lived in their 1960s house in Goring, south Oxfordshire, for nearly five years. They bought the dated property as it had potential, and their main priority was to create a large, modern kitchen to accommodate their big family and many friends.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



HOB

Having a hob on the island makes cooking a more social affair. An induction design is a safe choice as the cooking surface stays cool

UNITS

Handle-free units are ideal in a open-plan living space as they give a clean, streamlined look

ISLAND

The worktop overhangs on three sides to create extra room for seating

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

DEMOLISH THE LEAKY CONSERVATORY

EXTEND TO INCREASE THE WIDTH OF THE ROOM

INSTALL A WALL OF BI-FOLD DOORS

FIT STREAMLINED UNITS



OVENS

Placing them side by side means it's easier to keep an eye on what's happening inside



LARDER

An awkward corner has been cleverly turned into a spacious pantry



Colourful pottery has added vibrant bursts of colour to the otherwise neutral, minimalist scheme

Did you mind taking on a fixer-upper house?

Not at all. We bought the house knowing it needed quite a bit of work, but it is at the end of a quiet road, has a big garden and although it was dated it was in good condition. Extending into the loft gave us a fifth bedroom and we knew we could remodel the back of the house to get a big kitchen/living space.

What was wrong with the original kitchen layout?

The kitchen and dining room had been separate but we knocked the wall down soon after moving in. Off the dining room was a conservatory that leaked and was boiling in summer and freezing in winter. The space as a whole didn't feel cohesive.

How did you get going from that point?

We consulted the builder who'd knocked down the wall. He's local and we saw other projects he had done and really liked his work. We knew we wanted to get rid of the conservatory and extend out about 1.5 metres to get a bigger room. We had to get planning permission as Goring is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The demolition of the horrid conservatory started on my birthday and that was the best present ever.

Did you know what style you wanted for your new space?

It's a 1960s house and I think that gave us more freedom in terms of style. In a period property or a brand-new house the choices are a bit more obvious, but here we felt we had different options. However, we realised a country kitchen just wasn't for us, but neither was a very contemporary look. We went for a modern feel with white-gloss handleless kitchen units and decided to add plenty of wood and stone so the overall feel wasn't too stark.

Was it hard to find units that worked with your budget?

Budget was an issue as we put in bi-fold doors that open onto the garden and this reduced our funds. We took our time researching units at both designer and high-street kitchen companies and were able to find the look we liked at a good price.

Tell us about the kitchen layout

We both wanted an island. Mark cooks a lot and we sited the induction hob on the island so he could be cooking and still chat to people. He chose wooden worktops as he makes bread with the children and can knead and roll out the bread directly on it. The worktop on the island has overhangs on three sides so you can get four people sitting up there – two along one side and one at each end. This is where the children have their breakfast and informal meals and I often have friends sit there when I'm cooking. We also have a larder, one of my favourite features, which was suggested by the designer at Benchmarx Kitchens and Joinery, the kitchen company we chose.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

‘It took six months to complete and at times it was tough. It was rather like pregnancy – exciting because at the end of it I knew I’d have something wonderful,’ SAYS LIZZIE

DOORS
New glazed double doors in the dining area contribute to the kitchen’s open feel

FLOORING
The texture of the mottled travertine tiles brings a feeling of warmth to the room





An undermounted sink has been set into the worktop for a sleek finish

The couple only had to extend out about 1.5 metres to get the extra space they needed to create their dream kitchen



And your new dining space is fantastic

I was really focused on having a big area for eating. We have four children and I'm one of four, so with just my family it's 21 of us. I also wanted the children to be able to bring friends back and for us to have guests over and have plenty of room. The table we chose extends out to three metres so there's room for everyone. In the dining end of the room we also fitted double glass doors that lead to the living room, which creates a really open feel.

The flooring is beautiful – how did you choose it?

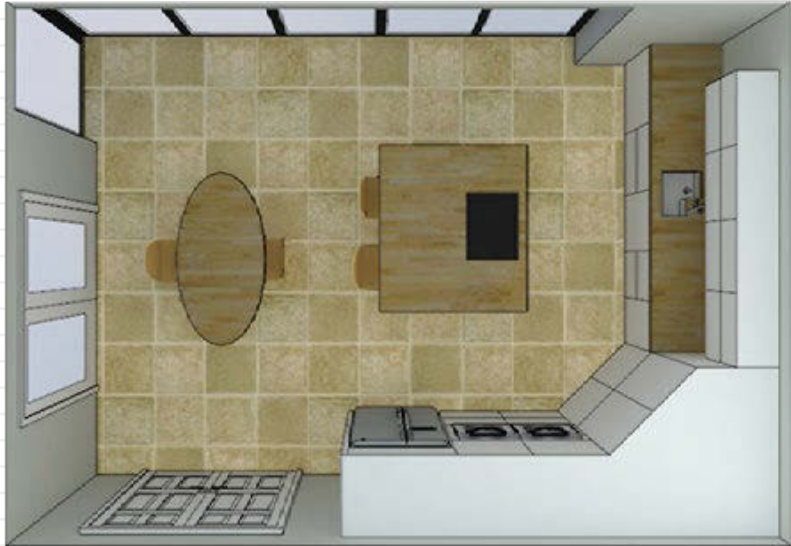
We wanted to bring warmth to the space, so we picked large rectangular travertine tiles which warm everything up and also tone in with the wooden worktops. We decided to paint the walls a soft grey, too, as a contrast to the white units.

Is there anything you'd do differently?

If I did it again I don't think I'd go for an integral wooden draining board. It looks nice but I'm constantly worried about keeping it dry. With four children, I'd have a bigger sink as well! Besides those two things, it's everything we ever wanted. **HB**

THE NEW LAYOUT

An island divides the cooking and dining areas, while bi-fold doors lead out to the garden and maximise light in the kitchen



GET THE LOOK



Stilt **cheese dome** and ash stand, £85, LSA International



Retro **stand mixer** with bowl, £199.99, Swan

WHAT IT COST

Paint.....	£72
Flooring	£1,578
Units.....	£8,574
Worktops.....	£700
Appliances	£4,000
Sink and tap.....	£626
Furniture.....	£1,620
Total	£17,170



Victory brushed stainless-steel monobloc **tap**, £298, Astracast

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in Pavilion Gray Modern **emulsion**, £72 for 5L, Farrow & Ball. Travertine tumbled **floor tiles**, £75.14 a sq metre, Topps Tiles. Holborn white gloss **units**, £106 for a 600mm **base unit**; oak **worktops**, £350 for a three-metre length; AEG induction **hob**, £680; AEG **steam oven**, £800; AEG **single oven**, £700; AEG built-in **dishwasher**, £440; Zanussi **extractor**, £480; Lincoln undermounted **sink**, £296; Iflow **tap**, £80; Insinkerator **waste disposal**, £250; all Benchmarx Kitchens and Joinery. Samsung American-style **fridge-freezer**, £900, ao.com. Grey metal **pendant light**, £230, Griggs & Mackay. Solid oak **table**, £800; **chairs**, £100 each; all The Furniture Barn. Pastel pottery **bowls**, £3 each, Sainsbury's. **Water bottles**, £3 each, Goring Hardware. Asti **bar stools** with walnut-effect finish, £55 each, Atlantic Shopping. **Bi-fold doors** in Anthracite aluminium with internal blinds, £10,000, UKBifold

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS STEPHANIE SMITH. PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE. PLAN CHRISTOS PINIATIDES

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RUSTIC CHARM

With its ivory base and oak top, the **Maine** (H78.3cm x W90cm x L125-165cm) is perfect for a country kitchen. £859, BHS



FULL CIRCLE

The price is right with the round **Hartham** (H76cm x 113-153cm diameter) as it includes four chairs. £999, Harveys



NATURAL BEAUTY

It's the grain pattern on the top that makes the **Florence** (H74cm x W75cm x L120-160cm) so eyecatching. £179.99, Worldstores



FINE DINING

Just imagine the stylish dinner parties you can have with the **Graphite** (H76cm x W90cm x L180-230cm), £939, Furniture Village

Gather
ROUND
On high days and holidays,
there'll be room for
everyone around
these flexible tables



CHARACTER PIECE

Looking for an unusual design? The refectory-style **Parker** (H75cm x W100cm x L200-275cm) would fit the bill. £995, Habitat



ELEGANT LINES

The **Lily** (H76cm x W80cm x L120-166cm) has a sleek mid-century modern vibe. £375, House by John Lewis



ALL SET

Two benches come with the **Industrial** solid top table (H75cm x W90cm x L120cm) so you can seat more people. £629, Littlewoods



DOUBLE HELPING

The petite **Homer** flip-top table (H76cm x W90cm x L90-180cm) unfolds to double its length. £625, Loaf

WORDS DENISE BROCK

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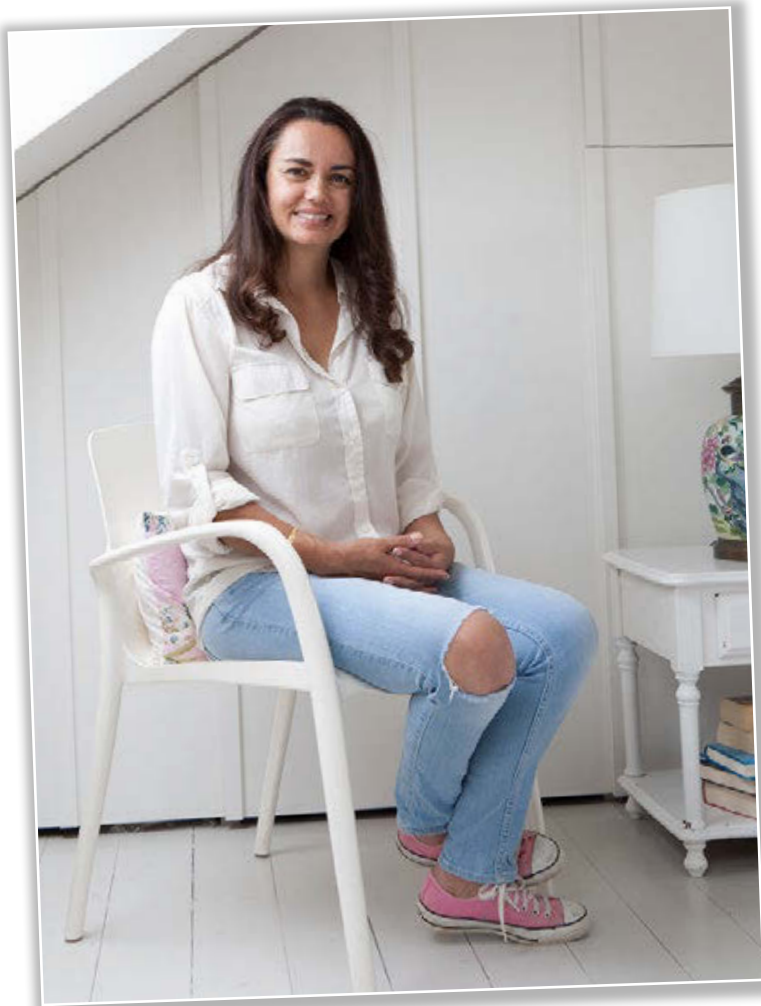
BOLLTISTEL King-size quilt cover set £50/5pcs
Grey/yellow. Quilt cover 240x220cm. 4 pillowcases 50x80cm.





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HIGHER GROUND

An unused attic has been turned into a light and spacious bedroom that provides the ultimate retreat.

Paula Church, 42, an interior designer, created this space for herself in the 1960s-built, four-bedroom home in Hove, East Sussex she shares with her 16-year-old twins, Billy and Ruby.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



WINDOWS
The two Velux windows have built-in blinds to keep light out in the mornings

WALLS
As both the walls and floorboards have been painted white, the room has a greater sense of space



STORAGE
Hidden cupboards
have been built
behind the bed.
The panelled wall
is actually a series
of doors with
push-release
magnets

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

CONVERT THE ATTIC INTO A BEDROOM

CREATE SPACE FOR AN ENSUITE

FACTOR IN STORAGE

KEEP THE DECORATION PARED BACK



BATH

Having the tub in the bedroom meant Paula was able to create a more compact ensuite and a bigger bedroom

FURNITURE

Even the furnishings are white to maintain the minimalist feel that Paula loves

‘This bedroom is a sanctuary for me. It’s an antidote to my busy life. At the end of the day relaxing in a candlelit bath is just wonderful,’ SAYS PAULA

You moved in less than two years ago, so you’ve managed to do a lot of work in a short of time

Yes. I sold my previous house, a Victorian property, back in November 2013 and bought this modern, 1960s semi, which I loved because of all the light it gets. When I moved in it had lots of pink swirly carpets and busy wallpaper, and everything needed doing, but being an interior designer I relished the challenge.

Why did you decide to convert the attic?

The house was much smaller than I was used to and with two teenagers taking up a lot of space, I needed my own area to escape to. It made sense to use the attic as it’s so large.

How did you plan the layout?

First, I designed everything on a floorplan as there were going to be a lot of low head heights, and started by positioning the bed centrally under the highest point – everything else followed from there. I came up with the idea of the hidden wall of storage behind the bed as I didn’t want freestanding wardrobes taking up valuable floor space and because of the restricted height of the walls. It looks just like a normal wall. There are no cupboard handles – the doors open with push-release magnets.

It’s unusual to have a bath in a bedroom

That’s true, but I wanted the biggest bedroom possible, so I made the shower room very compact and then I found there was space for the bath under the window. It’s something I’ve always wanted – it feels so decadent, as if I’m staying in a hotel.

Were there any special requirements for putting a bath in?

Electrical sockets had to be at least two metres away from any water and the floor had to be reinforced to hold the weight of the bath – a structural engineer did the calculations.

Was the builder recommended?

Getting the right person was key. Our builder came highly recommended. He was quick and kept everything as clean as possible. That was important as we were living in the house while the work was being done.

Did the building work take long?

Just eight weeks, which was amazing. The outside work was done first and the staircase was installed as late as possible to keep disruptions to a minimum. It really was stress-free. Having everything ready and knowing what we were doing beforehand really helped.

The all-white colour scheme is very calming

Having a neutral background was important as I like to change things around. This way I can bring in different colours and textures with cushions and bedlinen. I also aimed to maximise the light and create a modern feel, which an all-white scheme certainly does.

What was your main purchase?

I didn’t spend much on accessories or furniture as I had a lot already. I spent my budget of £35,000, which I had from the sale of my previous house, on the construction. It was worth every penny!

● Contact Paula’s builder Ashley Burrows on 0781 668 5542

● See more of Paula’s work at paulachurch.co.uk

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



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ENSUITE
Stud walls were put up in a corner of the bedroom to create a small shower room

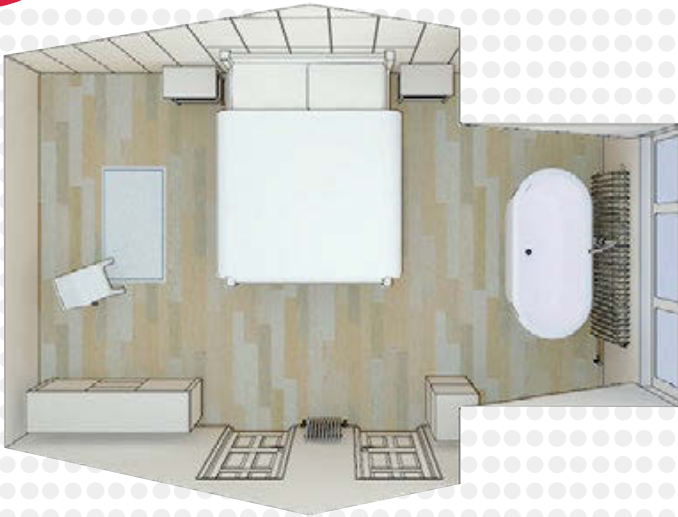


SHELVING
Hidden cupboards behind the bed have shelving and hanging space



THE NEW BEDROOM

In addition to the freestanding bath, there's an ensuite behind the second door



GET THE LOOK



Mint Bloom **suspension lamp**, £206, Kartell at Amara



Contessa carved **mirror**, £245, Brissi



Textured weave **throw** in English Mustard, £48.50, Clare Loves

WHAT IT COST

Paint.....	£217
Bed.....	£900
Curtains.....	£20
Sanitaryware.....	£1,200
Tiles.....	£70
Radiators.....	£500
Total.....	£2,907

SHOPPING LIST

BEDROOM Walls painted in All White Estate emulsion, £65 for 5L; **woodwork** painted in Slipper Satin Estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5L; **floor** painted in Cornforth White Floor paint, £99 for 5L; all Farrow & Ball. **Bed**, £900, Brighton Bed Centre. Similar **bedside table**, Hastings, £179, Marks & Spencer. Similar **chair**, Urban, £25; similar **storage chest**, Nordli, £95; both Ikea. **Bath**, £700, Spencer Hart. **Radiators**, from a selection, Castrads. Double **duvet cover**, £39.99; **white pillowcases**, £29.99 for two; **floral pillowcases**, £19.99 for two; all Zara Home. For similar **bedspread** and **blanket**, try Zara Home. For similar **lamp**, try Table Lamp Emporium. **Curtains**, £20, Ikea. **Chandelier**, from a selection, Three Angels. Pastel **cushions**, from £7.99 each, H&M. **BATHROOM Basin**, £169, Bathstore. For similar **cabinet**, try Three Angels. **Tiles**, from a selection, Nick Firth Tiles. For a similar **mirror**, try John Lewis. For similar **WC**, try Bathstore 

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MODERN CURVE

Made in high grade acrylic, the **Cocoon** bath, £1,300, Vitra, has a simple oval shape that would suit any style of room



COLOUR CHOICE

The **Status** double-skinned acrylic bath comes in white for £299; add £500 to have it painted any other colour, splashdirect.com



SOAK IN STYLE

Based on a classic slipper bath the **Slipp** is wonderfully glamorous, with slim sides and a delicate shape. From £1,433, BC Designs



COMING UP SHORT

At just 169cm long, the contemporary **Cube2** bath, £1,495, Frontline Bathrooms, is a neat solution for a modest-sized room

Make a SPLASH

Whether your bathroom is petite or palatial, a freestanding bath will take centre stage



PERFECTLY FORMED

Ideal for a small space, the compact **Ionian Quarrycast** bath is smaller than usual at 170cm long, £3,150, Victoria + Albert



HAVE THE EDGE

Featuring an update on the traditional roll top, the **Hadleigh** double-ended cast-acrylic bath is £1,650, Heritage Bathrooms



OLD-FASHIONED CHARM

In cast iron with a high quality white enamel interior, **Athena** has a primed exterior ready to paint at home, £1,492, Aston Matthews



CLASSIC SIMPLICITY

Soft squared corners are a feature of the **Loops & Friends** Square acrylic bath, £1,910, Villeroy & Boch

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



The leather becomes softer and even more beautiful with age

WIN a luxury leather sofa

Relax in comfort with this stylish seating from Halo

With its polished steel frame and deep, soft leather cushions, this two-seater sofa combines comfort with good looks. From the Hurlingham collection by leading furniture maker Halo, it's been inspired by 1970s design and updated for modern living. Now House Beautiful readers have the chance to win one of three sofas in this competition.

Founded in 1976, Halo offers a collection of simple classic furniture with a vintage feel. Each piece is handmade, using traditional construction and materials. The Hurlingham sofas, each worth £2,000, are upholstered in Halo's soft and supple hand-finished leathers, designed to become even softer and more beautiful with age.

The three winners can choose one of nine leathers, available in many different colours and level of finish, from gently distressed to authentically antique. For more info visit haloliving.co.uk. For your chance to win answer the question right.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS *Calls should last no longer than two minutes. Calls from mobiles and other networks may cost more. If you phone or text your entry after the advertised closing date, you will not be entered but you will be charged. Entry is open to residents living in mainland UK. Only one entry per household. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date. Service provider: Spoke (0333 202 3390). No purchase is necessary. The prize is not transferable. Existing furniture will not be removed. For full terms and conditions turn to p6. DATA PROTECTION We will use the information you supply to process your competition entry. For our privacy policy, visit hearst.co.uk/dp.



BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Brave choices and brilliant bargains came together in this showstopping bathroom.

In search of a slower pace of life, Jo Fitzgerald and her husband Mark, both 45, moved from the Midlands to the north Devon coast with their three children. They intended to renovate and extend a run-down bungalow, but ended up demolishing it and replacing it with a contemporary family home. Jo project-managed the build and interiors, including this bathroom.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

WALL COLOUR
A vivid teal-painted wall allows the black bath to stand out and emphasises the blue in the flooring



BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

- FIND A STATEMENT BATH AND FLOORING
- FIT IN THE BATH AND A SEPARATE SHOWER
- MAKE A ONE-OF-A-KIND WASHSTAND
- CREATE A FEATURE WALL



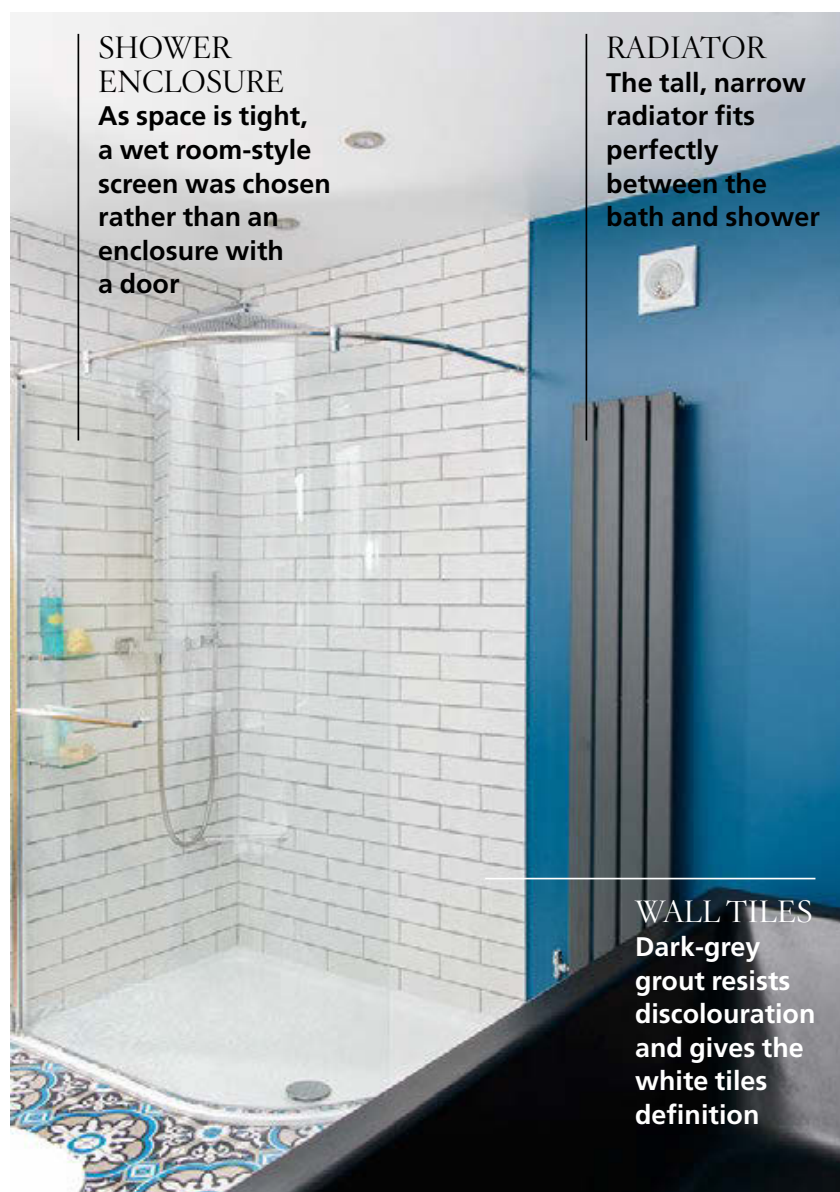
MIRROR
Reflected light from the mirror helps the room feel bright and more spacious

BATH
It may be big, but its simple lines ensure the bath doesn't overwhelm the room

LOO
White sanitaryware fades into the background, keeping the attention on the key design features



WASHSTAND
Jo upcycled a vintage drinks cabinet to create a vanity unit



SHOWER ENCLOSURE
As space is tight, a wet room-style screen was chosen rather than an enclosure with a door

RADIATOR
The tall, narrow radiator fits perfectly between the bath and shower

WALL TILES
Dark-grey grout resists discolouration and gives the white tiles definition



FLOOR
Jo picked the floor for its design and because it disguises dirt and dust

The bathroom is striking – is this your typical style?

Yes – I like to push the boundaries! Bathrooms can be bland, so I wanted something out of the ordinary and the black bath was the starting point. It caught my eye because it's unusual. I'd already decided on a patterned floor because a white one shows every scrap of debris, and when I spotted these floor tiles I loved the bright blue colour and strong design. I'm a big fan of patterned wallpaper and the tiles do a similar job but on a different surface.

How did you balance all the bold elements?

Seeing in magazines how other people had handled similar combinations and colours gave me confidence. I went for chunky taps to complement the huge bath. And I looked at other black sanitaryware but getting a colour-match was tricky, so I've used simple shapes in white instead to avoid overloading the room. The blue walls pull everything together, but it was hard to find classic, unobtrusive wall tiles that aren't boring. The slim subway tiles were ideal.

Tell us about the layout

It evolved because the bath had to go across one end of the room as that was the only place we could put in the extra support joist it needed. The waste pipes dictated the position of the WC and the basin sat well next to it. I looked for the biggest walk-in shower that would fit and found the curved design made best use of the space.

Where did you shop?

Living in a rural area, I rely on the internet for shopping and I found some great deals online. The bath would normally cost around £4,000, but I spotted an affordable ex-display one on eBay. The bath tap was discounted because of a slight mark, but it's barely noticeable. The shower screen and tray were also fantastic value. I could only see photographs of everything, of course, but I'm quite relaxed about that and if I made a mistake I knew I could work around it.

What about storage?

A standard vanity unit wasn't for me so I've customised a mid-century rosewood drinks cabinet, which is surprisingly roomy. I love rosewood and it works with the black bath. I painted the outer frame and sealed it with yacht varnish, and the basin sits on top.

Do you have a favourite element in the bathroom?

It has to be the bath. It's so big and comfortable and holds the heat well. It's easy to clean with ordinary bathroom cleaner but being dark it does need a daily dust! **HB**

IN DETAIL

THE LAYOUT

Choosing a sliding bathroom door meant there was room for the family to have a big shower



GET THE LOOK



Hoxton **floor tile**, £16 for 12, Bathstore



Los Angeles waterfall bath and shower mixer, £109.99, Joyou

WHAT IT COST

Paint	£28
Wall tiles	£173
Floor tiles	£345
Sanitaryware & taps ..	£1,531
Washstand	£70
Shower	£964
Radiator	£68
Total	£3,179



Salvage **lotion dispenser**, £4.99, Dunelm

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in Valspar Kitchen & Bath Paint in Deep Sea Dive, £27.98 for 2.5L, B&Q. Moroccan encaustic cement 29b **floor tiles**, £69 a sq metre; Metro Subway Masia Blanco **wall tiles**, £28.80 a sq metre; all Best Tile. Kaldewei Conoduo black enamelled steel **bath**, £795 (available new from Bathroom Heaven, £2,595); Hudson Reed Cascata **bath filler**, £200; Hudson Reed Tide **basin mixer**, £197; all eBay. Grosseto ceramic **basin**, £89, clickbasin.co.uk. Roca The Gap close-coupled **WC**, £250, Plumbnation. Hudson Reed Spark **bar shower kit**, £544; Duchy Style curved walk-in **wet room screen** and **tray**, £420; all heatandplumb.com. Designer vertical flat panel **radiator**, £67.99, IBathUK. Large vintage **mirror**, £200; smaller **mirror**, £120; wire **storage basket**, £45; all The Lamb Shed. Similar **plaster plaque** is Greek 3 wall plaque, £22.95, Plaster Craft Interiors

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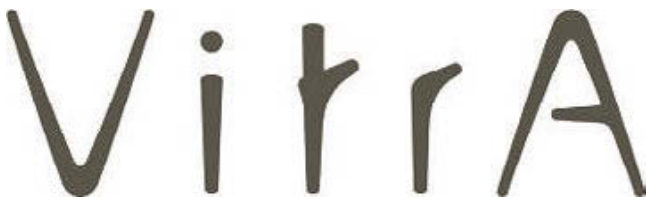
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YORKSHIRE

Atlas Bathroom Ltd
Huddersfield, HD1 3QF
01484 547110
Easingwold Bathrooms
York, YO61 3FB - 01347 824777
Edward Foster & Son Bradford Ltd
Bradford BD5 0DP
01274 731358
Home Design
Kingston upon Hull, HU6 7PE
01482 445060
John S Longley
Barnsley, S70 1YG - 01226 248766
Johnsons
Harrogate, HG2 0NU
01423 523969
Nigel Atkinson's Bathroom Emporium
Thirsk, YO7 1DA - 01845 574555
Norwood Interiors
Leeds, LS5 3RP - 0113 388 5225
Ripon Interiors
Ripon, HG4 1QW - 01765 603 502
Southgate Bathroom Studio
Pontefract, WF8 1LN
01977 792266
Tubs & Taps
Wakefield, WF1 5PL - 01924 332220
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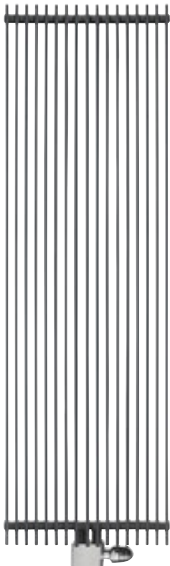
ALL SQUARE

Create a smart focal point with the grid-shaped **Alide Anthracite** (H160cm x W46cm), £365, Frontline Bathrooms



INTO THE BLUE

In energy-efficient aluminium and available in a range of colours and textures, the **Blok** (in Steel Blue here) costs from £588, Bisque



SMART STYLE

Eucotherm's **Atlas Vertical** in Anthracite, from £433.99, Worldstores, will bring a crisp outline to any room



TRADITIONAL VALUES

Regency (H82.5cm x W50cm) combines a coloured radiator and chrome towel warmer, from £1,532.40, Vogue UK

The heat
IS ON!

Pick a radiator for impact and colour as well as warmth



TUBE LINE

Eyecatching and unfussy, the **Tuboni Vertical** by Andrea Crosetta (H170cm x W21cm) is £1,517, Iconic



TALL ORDER

The **Moderno Verti** flat-bar tubular metal radiator (H180cm x W51.9cm) will add an elegant touch, £859, Homebase



OLD-SCHOOL LOOK

Bisque's **Classic** four-column radiator with feet (H57.5cm x W58.2cm) gets a new look in Lemon, £568



COLOUR CHAMELEON

If the matt white is too plain for you, there are 188 colours to choose from. **Arrow**, from £708, The Radiator Company

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS DENISE BROCK

Visit Scotland's amazing IDEAL HOME SHOW

Enjoy a special day at this best-loved event in Glasgow

Whether you're looking for ideas to help you complete a major project or just want to add a few finishing touches to your home, you're bound to find it all at this show. With seven dedicated areas plus inspirational room sets, stunning show gardens and a host of celebrities and expert seminars, this event has everything you need for a great day out! Visit the Show Village and see our four-bedroom **Home for Life** styled by interior designer Pippa Jameson.

We're also hugely excited to present the groundbreaking **House Beautiful Homes collection** of custom-built houses at the show – where you can see all four adaptable designs in 3D models.

EXCLUSIVE

We're delighted to enclose a free ticket to the Ideal Home Show Scotland 2015

– exclusive to House Beautiful readers living in Scotland – for Friday 22 May 2015. One free ticket per household.

TAKE A FRIEND

To book additional tickets for the opening day for just £8.50 per person, visit idealthomeshowscotland.co.uk or call 0844 854 2014* before 21 May 2015 and quote HB2015. We hope you enjoy the show!

● Scotland's award-winning home show is at the SECC from 22-25 May 2015

TERMS AND CONDITIONS Valid Friday 22 May 2015 for one day only. Extra ticket offer valid for 22 May (opening day of the show) and must be booked before 21 May 2015. Concessions not included. No booking fee applies. Children aged 15 and under go free when accompanied by a paying adult (maximum two). *Calls cost 6p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.



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Aqua print
napkins, £5 for
a two-pack



Dip bowls,
£2.50 each



Aqua print
platter, £10



Cobalt Blue
dessert dish, £4



Half-glaze
dipped
mug, £4

SEASIDE STYLE

Refresh your kitchen and dining decor with ceramics, glass and fabrics in vibrant sea blue shades

Updating your dinnerware and glassware is an easy way to revitalise your home.

Sainsbury's makes this easier than ever with its brilliant new Aqua range featuring bold spot and stripe patterns alongside fish motifs that evoke the feel of a Greek island holiday.

Meanwhile textured ceramics, recycled glass and textiles add depth and authenticity to this contemporary take on the coastal trend. Blue and white is a classic combination and the

bright patterns will look amazing when mixed with clean white surfaces or combined with plain white dinnerware.

So now's the time to spruce up your tabletop with high street style at supermarket prices and treat yourself and your home to this cheerful collection. These gorgeous pieces would also make perfect gifts for friends and family.

To view more of the ranges and for inspiration and tips, visit sainsburyshome.co.uk or head to your nearest Sainsbury's home department. Call 0800 636 262 to find the store closest to you.



Cobalt Blue
hi ball, £3



Aqua print
serving bowl, £12



Aqua print jug, £12



Master mixing

Combining finishes can create a stunning effect, explains Chris Mossop, kitchen designer at Harvey Jones

- * Contrast different materials for visual interest. For instance, the clean lines of the white cabinets (left) highlight an exposed brick wall.
- * Incorporating work surfaces in a range of thicknesses, heights and materials not only gives a bespoke look, it also helps zone a kitchen. For instance, a chunky wenge worktop could define a breakfast bar and a wooden chopping block could break up a granite worktop.
- * Open shelving personalises a space, making it feel lived in – it's ideal for introducing different colours or materials.
- * The gleaming finish of metallics, whether on appliances, taps or accessories, provides accents to a scheme, while glass creates a hi-spec look so incorporate it through a cooker hood or splashback.
- * In a kitchen/dining room, create a feature floor by using wood in one area and tiles in the other. Keep the palette relatively neutral and rely on texture for interest.

KITCHEN NOTEBOOK

Best new trends, expert advice and time-saving innovations

Linear kitchen with modern flat doors, from £18,000, Harvey Jones



GOOD IDEA

Watch your waste

Taking up the same amount of space as your average bin, the Totem from Joseph Joseph, £175, is a smart way to organise recycling. A food caddy slots in the main bin area and the bottom drawer can be divided for paper and plastic. There's even an odour filter.

WORDS ANDREA MANLEY

3 OF A KIND

The latest taps perform well and add style to a sink area



▲ Filling big pans and rinsing is easy with this pull-out spray tap. It has a colour change LED light located on the handle, which changes from blue to red so you know if the water is hot or cold.
Lucet electronic LUC/CH tap, £1,099, Caple



▲ You'll get tea on tap with this design as it can dispense near-boiling water on demand (as well as the normal hot and cold). If the orange is too bright for you, there are Natural Stone or Pearl White options too.
3N1 kitchen tap in Orange, £799, Insinkerator



▲ Go for hi-tech with this electronic tap that can be operated simply by touching the spout or body. There's a lever for everyday use too, plus a pull-down spray and even an anti-limescale system.
Zedra Touch single-lever sink mixer, £673.17, Grohe

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BY ANGIE LEWIN £17.95



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SHOOTING STARS TEA TOWEL BY
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Living large

Clever storage and fittings will create a sense of space, says Paul Berryman, bathroom buyer at B&Q

- * Fitted furniture is a space-saving solution for any size bathroom, and a combined WC/basin unit (left) looks neat and hides ugly pipework.
- * You can never have too much storage, so extras such as shower panels with towel rails, storage niches built into walls, and vanity units with drawer dividers make a big difference.
- * Freestanding tubs are on trend for larger bathrooms, but a back-to-wall, double-ended bath will give a freestanding look in a smaller room.
- * Washbasins come in a huge range of shapes and finishes and can be the statement piece in a small bathroom. If you don't have room for a big basin, go for a semi-recessed design with a bold sculptural tap to give the wow factor.
- * Muted shades such as Bodega Grey in our fitted furniture range are popular and won't overpower a room. Alternatively, opt for classic white for the cabinets and go for grey on the walls.

Gloss white 600mm wall cabinet, £119; fitted furniture, from £119 for a 600mm WC cabinet; Cooke & Lewis Santini range; basin, £108; WC, £240; Cooke & Lewis Helena range; all B&Q

BATHROOM NOTEBOOK

New ideas and expert advice to refresh the look of your room



LATEST TREND

Modern ethnic

Influenced by patterns from South America, Persia and Morocco, the Fusion range from John Lewis hits all the right style notes. It includes the Nazca shower curtain, £15; Fringe border towels, from £12; and the Medina toothbrush holder, soap dish and dispenser, from £12.

WORDS ANDREA MANLEY

3 OF A KIND The latest showers are innovative and stylish



▲ Aurajet technology means you'll get a powerful and invigorating shower from the halo-shaped handset, and the low 9L a minute flow rate means you'll save water. **Aio Aurajet thermostatic bar shower and kit, £299, Methven**



▲ The head has five spray settings and easy-to-clean nozzles, and the mosaic tiles add interest to the control panel. You can choose from blue, black, white, stone or pink. **Sassi 8.5kW electric shower with blue mosaic panel, £454.80, Aqualisa**



▲ You get the best of both worlds with this mixer shower – a traditional fixed rose deluge showerhead and a three spray pattern handset, both of which have easy-clean heads for convenience. **Elegance shower column in chrome, £348, Vitra**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



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SMART LIVING

The latest in clever home technology and the most stylish gadgets around

Safeguard your home

Is your security up to scratch? Kris Hogg, director of Konnectiv, picks gadgets that will help keep your home and garden safe

✳ **Purse friendly** If you're working to a budget, go for a dummy camera at the front of your house, around £20, B&Q; basic timer lights, £9.99 for three, Argos, can be programmed to turn on lamps at a certain time each day; or opt for fake TV lights, £24.99, Maplin, that mimic the glow of your television. In the garden, the Barking Dog alarm from Clifford James, £59.99, uses radar technology to detect intruders.

✳ **Manage more** WeMo gives you control of your electronics and lighting from a smart device while you're out. The WeMo LED lighting starter set, £79.99, Belkin, lets you control WeMo Smart LED bulbs, so you can dim or turn lights on or off remotely.

✳ **See everything** Surveillance cameras that deliver live video of your property's interior to your smart device are a great option. The Focus 66 home monitoring Wi-Fi HD security camera from Motorola, around £69.99, and the Withings Home security camera, £169.95, both from Argos, will send you a notification if motion or noise are detected.

✳ **Total control** For a bespoke smart control system with CCTV, audio and motion sensor technology, intruder detection, lighting and access control that can be monitored by authorised users from anywhere in the world, it's best to get a professional installation. Go for settings that automatically switch all the lights on and off or make them flash while sounding loud music and alarms when an intruder is detected, and sophisticated voice-operated, video-based or biometric fingerprint entry systems. AMX, Control4, Crestron, KNX or URC all offer these. For example, when combined with a compatible security camera, the URC TKP-7000 Total Control In-wall touch screen system from AWE can display a live video feed for security monitoring, and can also be programmed to give you complete control of the entertainment, lighting and heating in your home. Automatic gates can be opened and closed at the touch of a button from anywhere too. You can find a list of installers in your area at cedia.org. Expect to pay from £1,000.



LATEST TREND

Special-effect walls

Photo resolution has now become so impressive that it's possible to cover an entire wall with an image, whether it's faux brick or a favourite holiday destination, and completely transform a room. Swedish company Photowall has a huge choice on offer, with prices from about £26 a sq metre.

WORDS EMILY PECK

3 OF A KIND

Super-whizzy electric toothbrushes



▲ On this model, the brush oscillates, rotates and pulsates and there are six settings including Gum Care and Whitening. It links to an app on your smart device via Bluetooth so you can track results and customise your brushing routine. **OralB Pro 6000 Smart Series, £229.99, boots.com**



▲ Smart sensors automatically adjust the brushing speed to suit your teeth and gums on this option where sonic vibrations clean up to 32,500 strokes a minute and an angled neck makes it easier to access those hard-to-reach areas. **Colgate ProClinical A1500, £169.99, colgateproclinical.co.uk**



▲ Diamond-shaped bristles give great cleaning results on this elegant design that comes with a claim to make teeth whiter in a week. It has five settings and a timer indicates when you should move to a different section. **Philips Sonicare DiamondClean, £249.99, boots.com**

FRENCH FANCIES

Create a romantic and elegant look with soft pastels, subtle patterns and pretty accessories



Spring is the perfect time of year for adding a fresh feel to your home. This season it's all about combining glamour and opulence with the romance of shabby chic for a relaxed and super-stylish home.

One of the best places to find all the elements for this fabulous look is Laura Ashley. Its new Natural Glamour collection mixes pretty patterns in shades of lilac, lavender, heather and amethyst with the sophisticated sparkle of gold and silver and

a coordinating range of classic furniture styles and accessories.

Laura Ashley's French-inspired wallpapers add sophistication with gold metallic inks that blend beautifully with the gilt touches on its antique-effect glass chandeliers, and upholstery styles are comfortable and luxurious in tactile velvets in gorgeous pastel shades. Team these with the Provencal-style furniture range with its wonderfully soft patina, and nature-inspired porcelain pieces decorated with butterfly designs and create a look that really is as pretty as a picture.



Flutterby
Beautiful porcelain pieces decorated with butterflies add a summery look.
Butterfly Garden mug, £9; Butterfly Garden trinket jar, £18



Lighten up

Accessories in clear glass and pale pastels bring a lovely, delicate feel to your home.

Immy pendant, £75; Josette cushion, £40



Visit lauraashley.com for more ideas and inspiration

LAURA ASHLEY

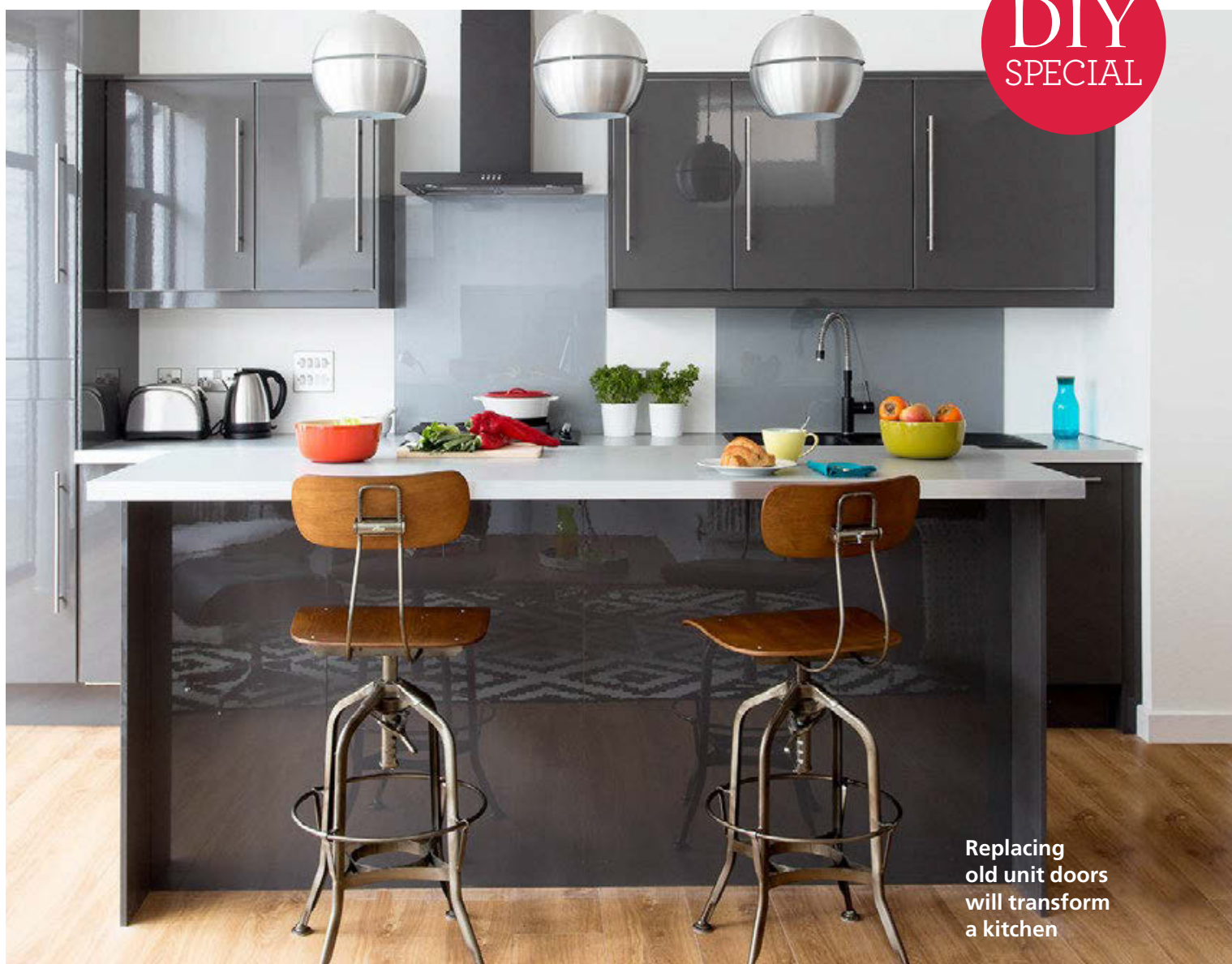
ASK THE EXPERTS

Take advantage of two bank holidays to update and refresh your home. DIY guru Jo Behari is here to help



Jo Behari

DIY EXPERT
Founder of Home Jane, the UK's first home improvement company with an all-female workforce



Replacing old unit doors will transform a kitchen

Easy kitchen updates

Our kitchen really could do with being smartened up but we can't afford new units. What do you suggest – are there any quick and purse-friendly ideas we could try?

● We also answer questions on property law, architecture, cleaning, eco design, interior design and mortgages. Send your questions to House Beautiful, 72 Broadwick Street, London W1F 9EP, or you can contact us by email or Facebook. Visit housebeautiful.co.uk/asktheexperts for more advice
● Find more tips in Jo's book *The Girl's Guide to DIY* (£12.99, New Holland Publishers)

A kitchen may seem like a daunting project to tackle, but with a bit of planning you can give it a facelift without the hassle of a full overhaul. First, the units. In all likelihood the carcasses are fine but you're probably unhappy with how they look from the front. Resolve this easily by either painting the doors or fitting new ones. There are online companies that make doors exactly to your measurements and specifications, so you could go from farmhouse to high-gloss quickly.

If you want to paint the doors yourself use melamine paint, available from most hardware stores, or normal wood paint for wooden doors – be sure to sand them first, however. Take the doors from the hinges and paint them flat on the floor to prevent paint runs and use a foam roller to avoid brush marks.

The second thing that can be changed to make a big impact is your splashback. Tired tiles can be

removed and replaced with a glass splashback, or you could be more creative and paint the area with chalkboard paint for a handy noticeboard.

A new floor will also provide a fresh look. Tiles are always popular, but if you fancy a warmer look then bamboo flooring is a good choice. It looks like wood but is very robust and fairly water-resistant – plus it's sustainable. Many click together so it's easy to fit yourself. All you need is a saw to cut it to the right size and a floor-fitting kit including a pull bar that allows you to squeeze the floorboards together easily. Remove plinths under the units so you can fit the floor snugly under the cabinets. You may have to shave some height off the plinths before you refit them but you can do this easily with a jigsaw or an electric plane. Finally, freshen up the whole kitchen with a lick of paint.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



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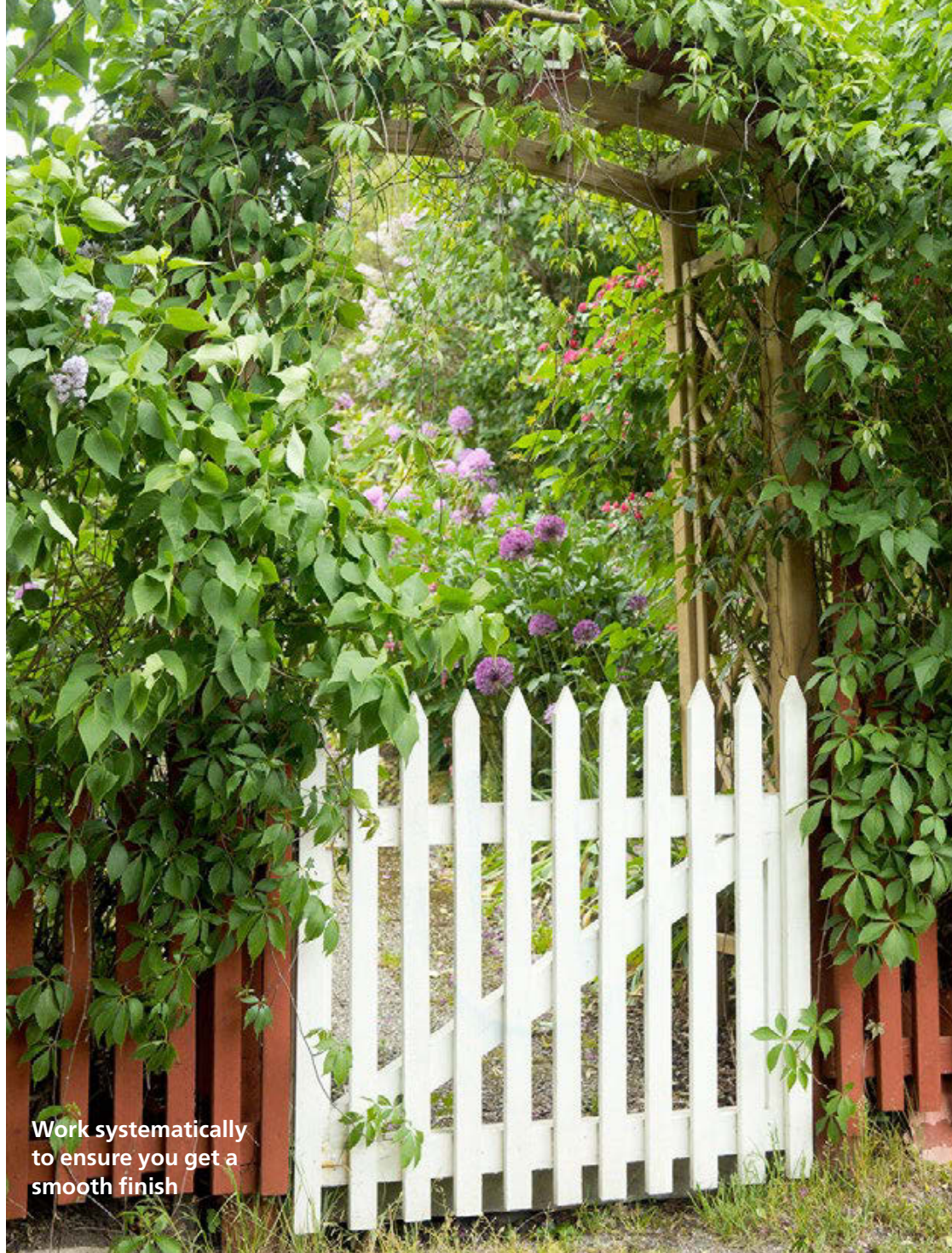
On the fence

What's the best way to paint my garden fence?

The great thing about painting a fence outside is you don't have to do lots of prep work. All you need to do is remove any nails that are sticking out and cover the surrounding area with dust sheets in case of spillage. Then it's just down to choosing your colour.

Cuprinol's Garden Shades range (£22 for 2.5L, B&Q) contains a fabulous selection, allowing you to bring some personality into your garden. My current favourite from the collection is Mediterranean Glaze, a beautiful bright aqua blue. There are two main methods of applying paint to a fence – brush or spray. Using a brush is more laborious, but I find it covers better and allows you to get into the fiddly places easily. Use a wide, large-bristled brush and decant paint into a paint kettle so you can carry it easily.

If spraying, you need a specific pump sprayer for the job. Be careful that you contain the spray as it's easy for the paint to travel to places you don't want it to. This is especially true if you have large gaps in your fence. It's one thing accidentally spraying your grass, but the neighbours might get upset if their garden furniture has splatters of purple all over it! To avoid this, stand about a foot away from the fence and work systematically, spraying in strips.



Work systematically to ensure you get a smooth finish

Smarter outlook

The wooden frames around our windows are looking a bit grubby on the inside. How easy will it be to refresh them?

Repainting a window frame can be a fiddly job, so commit time to it. One of the best things you can invest in is good quality masking tape. FrogTape (£6 for 41m, B&Q) is the only one on the market with PaintBlock technology, which gives a really neat line, so it's an ideal choice. Before you start masking though, you need to prepare all the wood. Sand it down and fill any cracks with wood filler. Ronseal Wood Filler (£6.98 for 275g, B&Q) sets quickly and dries to a very hard finish. When the filler has dried you can sand it down along with the rest of the wood. It's important to sand the entire frame as you need a key for the new paint to adhere well.

There may also be some areas around the window where the putty that keeps the window in place has cracked or come loose. This needs to be replaced as it can allow water to get in and may cause the pane to be loose. Scrape away the old putty and clean out the area. Roll new putty between your fingers so it's like a sausage. Lay this into the gap and smooth down with the edge of a filling knife. Once the frame is sanded and cleaned you can apply the masking tape to the glass and start painting. **CONTINUED OVER PAGE**

Use quick-drying products to make the job easier



Beauty underfoot

We have Victorian floorboards which are in great condition and I'd like to get rid of our carpet and bring them back to their original beauty. How would I tackle sanding them?

Sanding a wooden floor can be heavy, dirty work so you may want to ask someone to help you. Take everything out of the room. Next make sure the floor doesn't have anything that will snag on the sanding sheets, so knock down any nails and scrape off any excess glue or paint from previous floorcoverings.

The easiest way to sand a floor is to hire an industrial floor sander from a tool hire company. You can use a hand sander but it's much harder work. Industrial sanders are like big vacuum cleaners and can be cumbersome to work with but they provide the best results.

Keep the windows open and hang a dust sheet over the closed door to prevent the dust reaching the rest of the house. The sander will come with a number of different grades of sandpaper that attach to the bottom of the machine. Start with the coarsest grade and work along the floorboards with the grain of the wood. Depending on the condition of the boards you may need to use each grade of sandpaper more than once. Work your way over the floor with the different grades until you get a smooth finish. Vacuum and clean the floor. Leave the room for 24 hours so the dust in the air can settle before cleaning again and applying a topcoat of your chosen product.



Sprucing up a previously hidden floor is hugely rewarding



Make sure all connections are screwed on tightly

Bathroom revamp

Our basin is very old-fashioned. I'd like to replace it with something more modern. Could I fit it myself?

Fitting a new basin is actually a simple job as long as you know a few basic plumbing rules, such as how to turn the water off. If you don't have isolation valves on the basin taps you'll need to turn the water off at the mains stopcock, which will mean your entire water supply will be cut off for the duration of the job. Because of this you may want to fill a few buckets in case anything goes wrong.

The easiest route to take is a like-for-like replacement so you don't need to do any decorative repairs – for instance, replacing a pedestal basin with another pedestal. Alternatively, you could go for a vanity unit so it completely covers the area of the previous basin.

Once you've turned the water off, disconnect the taps from the water pipe. Unscrew the waste attachment where the U-bend meets the waste pipe. Depending on the type of basin (wall-hung, vanity unit or pedestal) there will be bolts where it attaches to the wall. Detach these and move the basin away from the wall. Tidy the area and then loosely screw your new basin to the wall, holding it in place while you connect the taps to the water pipe and then the waste pipes – you might need some help to hold the basin. Once all connections are made, tighten everything up and turn the water on to test that everything is tight enough. **HB**

PHOTOGRAPHS CAMERA PRESS/CHRIS WARNES/BAUERSYNDICAT; GAP/ BUREAU/GREG COX; GAP/DOUGLAS GIBB; GETTY; MARK SCOTT

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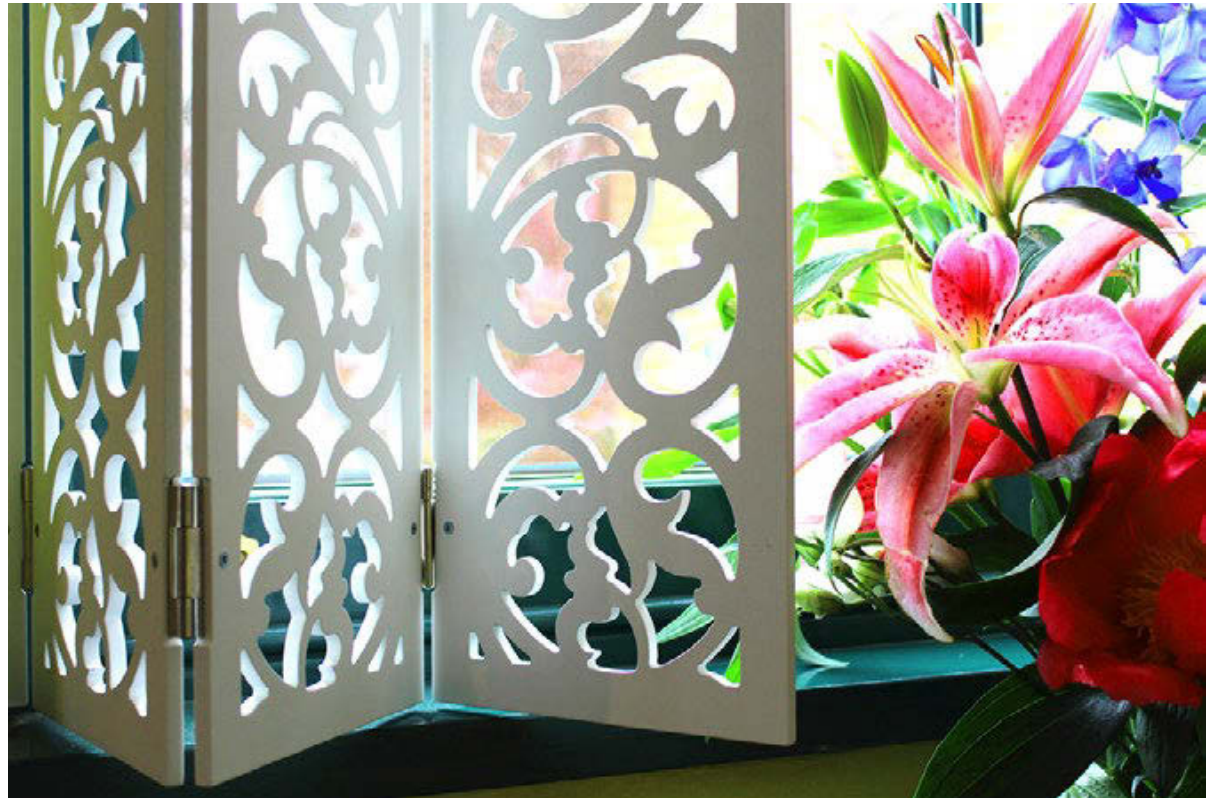
HOME COMFORTS

Stylish living ideas



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GOOD ON PAPER

Gorgeous wallpaper designs from three of the top ecofriendly companies

1 ABOVE AND BEYOND

Graham & Brown achieved the highest possible sustainable certification back in 1998 and continues to use water-based inks, convert waste into heat and plant three trees for every one it uses.

Honolulu Palm Green, £20 a roll, Julien Macdonald at Graham & Brown

2 STRIP IT OFF

Well known for its fabrics, Ian Mankin also has two wallpaper collections, both made using FSC-certified paper and without the use of chlorine in the bleaching process. They're all paste-the-wall papers, so are easy to remove and recycle. **Kew Baltic Pink, £49.50 a roll, Ian Mankin**

3 GREAT-VALUE DESIGNS

Arthouse has a wide range of well-priced wallpapers and its pretty Eco range, which includes the Songbird print above, is made from a mix of recycled and FSC-approved paper and water-based ink. **Songbird, £13.23 a roll, Arthouse Eco range, B&Q**

THREE WE LOVE

PASSIONATE PAINTS

Low-impact tones that are kinder to the environment



BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Ecos Paints, one of the leading VOC-free paint brands, has launched a range that it claims helps absorb and neutralise the common pollutants found in the air inside a home. Once used it will keep working for five years, says Ecos.

Atmosphere Purifying paint, available in 180 colours, £142.47 for 5L, Ecos Paints



A GREAT MIX

Newlife Paints' Reborn range of high-quality, low-carbon emulsion is made by blending old, unused and unwanted paint together. Previously only available in white, it now comes in a choice of colours and each tin contains as much as 90 per cent recycled content.

Reborn paint, available in 28 colours, £29 for 2.5L, Newlife Paints



HIGH PERFORMER

Nutshell Natural Paints has managed to manufacture a super-hardwearing emulsion that's VOC-free and contains added anti-fungal properties. It can also be wiped down easily and thanks to the acrylic content it covers hairline cracks for a flawless finish.

Interior emulsion, available in 72 colours, £30.49 for 2.5L, Nutshell Natural Paints



Geometry lesson

Made in France from recycled paper, this très chic storage solution is the perfect way to stay organised and add a hint of geometrics to your home. Le Tri-postal 2, €33 (including shipping), Papier Tigre at Les Parigotes



60 seconds on... LOW COST DECORATING

Community RePaint's Martin Pearse explains how you can help people in need to brighten their homes

How does Community RePaint work?

We collect unwanted and surplus paint and redistribute it to individuals, families and communities in need across the UK. We have 75 community-run schemes that collect paint from household waste recycling centres, painters and decorators, as well as unsold or damaged tins from DIY retail outlets. We sell our paint for up to £2 a litre, making decorating affordable for all.

You must keep a lot of paint out of landfill sites

In 2014, the network collected more than 445,000 litres of paint and redistributed over 301,000 litres to more than 3,386 community and sports groups, schools, charities and housing associations, and to 34,009 individuals and families in social need.

Are you limited by the colours you can recycle?

No. We'll take any colour or type of paint, except anything with the hazardous symbol on it. The important thing is the paint needs to be in a usable condition. Sometimes we will mix two small tins of colour to make one larger one. You'd be surprised by the variety of colours available at our centres.

You work closely with charities; can a lick of paint really make a difference to them?

Absolutely! Our paint has been used in community centres and charities, lightening up dark corners with bright murals. We're proud to be able to help provide paint to those people who struggle to pay for the basics – £25 for a pot of paint is beyond the means of many, so we make it possible for people to transform a child's bedroom for as little as £5.

How can we donate our spare paint?

Visit our website and find out where your nearest RePaint scheme is; some of our schemes also collect paint donated to council-run recycling centres. All we ask is that the paint is usable quality and each pot is at least half full. Your decorator can also use our facilities, which costs less than the usual disposal fees they have to pay.

And if there isn't a RePaint scheme near me?

Set one up! The more volunteers we have, the more paint we can save.

● Visit communityrepaint.org.uk for more info

RECYCLE, RENEW, REUPHOLSTER

Based in Manchester, the Ministry of Upholstery runs courses to help you give your furniture a new lease of life. Visit ministryofupholstery.co.uk for more information



Pillow talk

Like the look of these pillows? They're so much more than a stylish accessory. Not only does each one transform into a cosy blanket, but for every three orders, one disadvantaged woman in India is given a place on a workshop, which will teach her how to make them and other skills. £50 each, secretpillow.org.uk.

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BUYER'S GUIDE

CLEAR WINNERS

Recycling glass uses 30 per cent less energy than producing new

**BLOOMING MARVELLOUS**

Oscar & Eve's Hyacinth Bulb vases, £12.95 each, are perfect for bringing the outside indoors this spring

**SPANISH INFLUENCE**

Satisfyingly chunky, the San Miguel range of glassware from Sainsbury's costs from £2.50 for a tumbler; this wine glass is £4

**LIGHT THE WAY**

Tesco has lots of ecofriendly glassware this season, including this glass tealight holder, £3, and a matching turquoise hurricane lamp, £10

**DRY STORE**

With its clip-top lid, the glass pantry storage jar from Pastel Lane is ideal for dry goods. It's available in three sizes, from £29.50 each

**IN THE FRAME**

Display photos, postcards or trinkets in these beauties – even the sari fabric used to hang them is recycled. From £14 each, Ecora

**PASTEL PERFECT**

The striking organic shapes of the vases in Habitat's Esterban range make them wonderfully decorative pieces, from £8 each

**TWITTER TALK**

Smart Energy GB's Lucy Magg explains the Government's home energy meter initiative

@HB: What is a smart meter?

@SmartEnergy: They're new digital electricity and gas meters that will give you information about your energy use in pounds and pence, and will mean an end to estimated bills

@HB: So getting one will save households money?

@SmartEnergy: By 2020 the average house will save about £26 a year compared with what costs would have been without smart meters. Rising to £43 by 2030

@HB: That's lower than we imagined. Are the meters cheap to install?

@SmartEnergy: Yes, those savings take installation costs into account. There are other benefits, like knowing precisely how much you're spending on energy in pounds and pence

@HB: How can we get one?

@SmartEnergy: Energy suppliers fit smart meters, so talk to your gas and/or electricity company. It's voluntary but by 2020 every household must have been offered one.

@HB: What's in it for the Government?

@SmartEnergy: Smart meters will help consumers get more accurate bills and make better-informed choices about the right tariff and supplier for them

@HB: Will smart meters work with renewable energy?

@SmartEnergy: Smart meters will work with solar panels and other microgeneration, giving suppliers a more accurate picture of how much power is being generated

● Find out more at smartenergygb.org

Stylish garden furniture

Enjoy the warmer weather relaxing in this St Kitts outdoor set



Deal for enjoying the long, balmy days of summer in complete comfort, this high-quality, four-piece set will transform your garden, conservatory or terrace into a stylish space. It includes two chairs, a two-seater sofa and a glass-topped coffee table. Each set also features contrasting cushions that can be removed and stored easily when not in use.

Made from weatherproof rattan-effect PVC, the set is available in a choice of three sophisticated colourways: black or

brown rattan with beige cushions, and grey rattan with black cushions. Each chair measures H89cm x W59cm x D52cm, the two-seater sofa H89cm x W102cm x D52cm and the table H49cm x W92cm x D46cm. The cushions can be removed and hand washed if needed. Home assembly required.

This beautiful and classic lounge set is weatherproof, but we recommend that you store it during the winter months and cover it during bad weather. For

complete peace of mind, a 100 per cent waterproof and UV-resistant cover is available for just £24.99.

Please note that due to the weight of the product, delivery will take between five and seven days, and is charged at £19.99. Due to courier limitations, we are unable to deliver this product outside mainland UK, to Scottish Highlands and Isles or BFPO addresses.

Only £249.99 plus a £19.99 courier delivery charge

TO ORDER Visit clifford-james.co.uk/47719 or call 0871 911 7011* quoting 47719. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week.


TERMS AND CONDITIONS Courier delivery is £19.99 per order. 'Was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on the promoter's website cjooffers.co.uk, and in their retail store between 22/12/14 and 22/03/15. *BT landline calls cost 10p a minute; calls from other networks may cost more. Offer is subject to availability and open to UK residents only. Please allow seven working days for delivery. If you're not happy for any reason, you can return faulty/unused goods in the resealed original packaging for a refund or replacement within 14 days. Please note that postage is not refunded on unsuitable items or cancelled orders. Your contract for supply of goods is with BVG Airflo.

A vibrant garden scene featuring a wooden swing set with a black canopy, partially obscured by dense foliage. A large tree trunk with a carved face is on the left. The garden is filled with various plants, including pink roses, purple flowers, and green foliage. A stone path leads through the garden, and a green lawn is in the foreground.

DAYS OF SUNSHINE

This long, walled garden has been transformed from a dark and overgrown tangle into a bright, colourful retreat

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY NICOLA STOCKEN



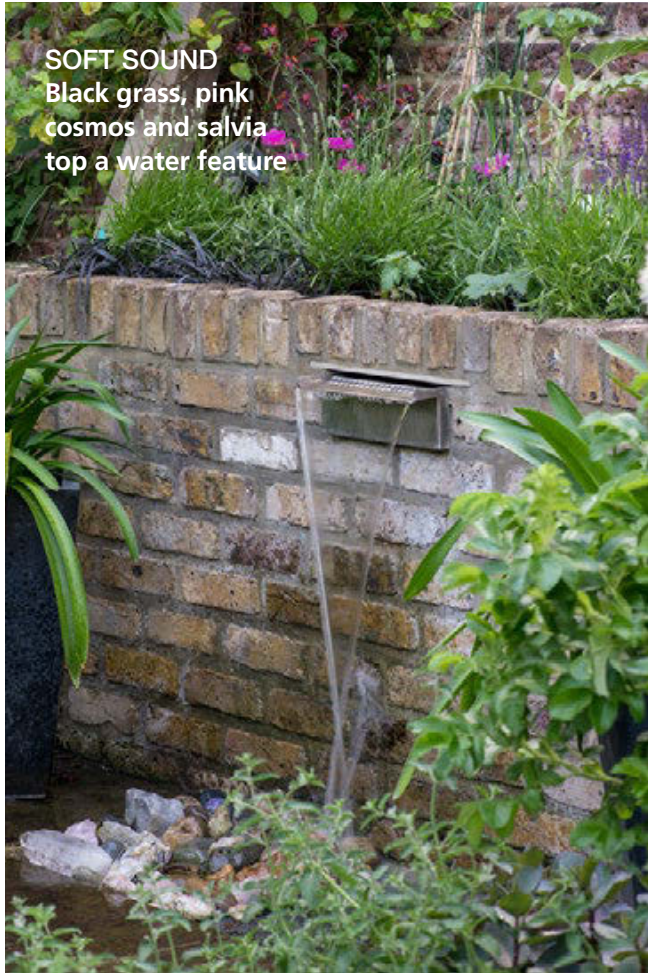
URBAN OASIS
With a patchwork of separate areas creating interest, this London garden is full of surprises. One bed features a silver birch with a face sculpture by Pauline Lee, while a purple-leaved cherry tree presides over a hidden courtyard

Every time Hilary and Peter Haynes walk into their kitchen they have a beautiful view of their walled garden framed by the room's bi-fold doors. 'It's like looking at a living painting that changes with the seasons,' says Hilary. 'There's something to see 365 days a year.' At 7.5 metres by 37 metres, the plot is narrow and long and was a difficult shape to work with. But with lots of imagination and hard work the couple have transformed it and, in the process, created a seamless link with their Grade II listed Georgian home in Twickenham, southwest London. Hilary tells the story...


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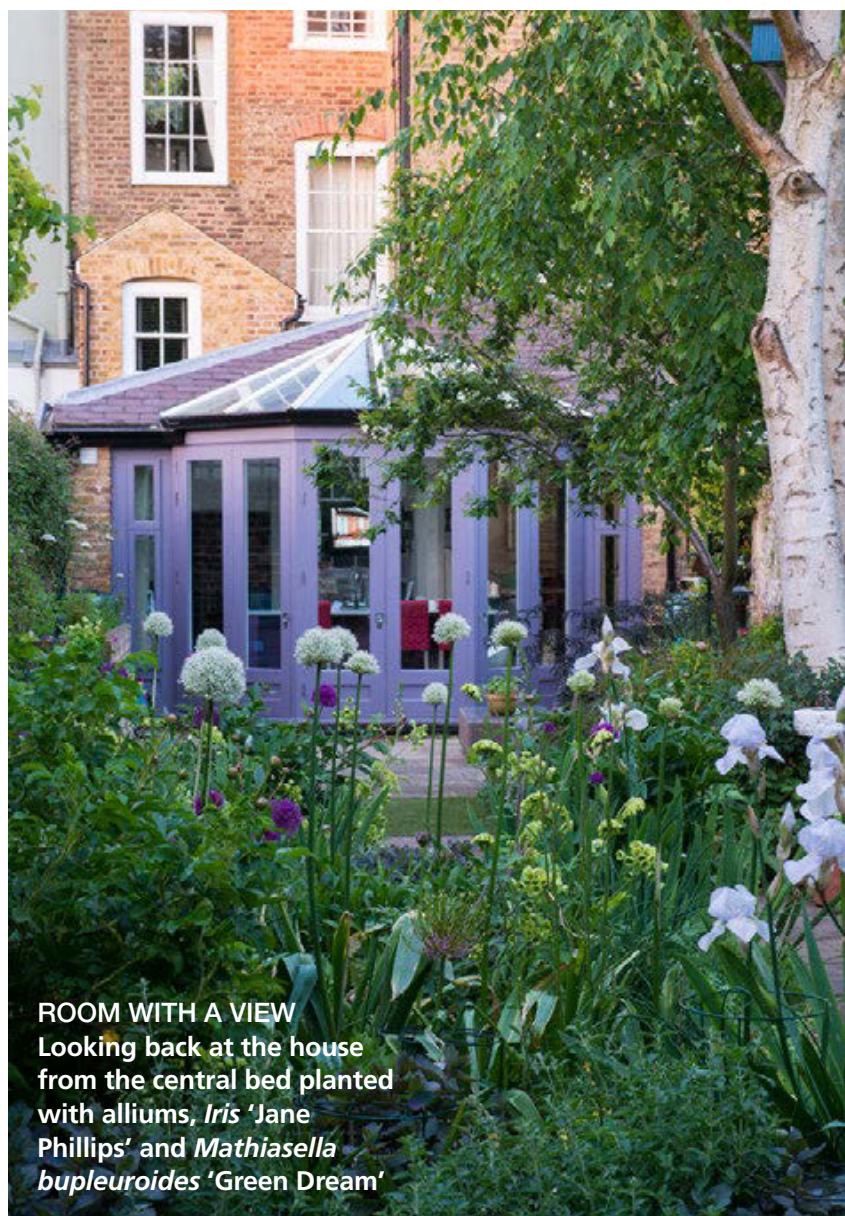
VIVID COLOUR
Geranium Rozanne flowers from May through to the first hard autumn frosts



SOFT SOUND
Black grass, pink cosmos and salvia top a water feature



VERSATILE PLANTING
Mathiasella bupleuroides 'Green Dream' gradually turns pink and is great for cutting and drying



ROOM WITH A VIEW
Looking back at the house from the central bed planted with alliums, *Iris* 'Jane Phillips' and *Mathiasella bupleuroides* 'Green Dream'

CONNECTING INSIDE AND OUT

Five years ago, we were out walking the dog when we spotted a For Sale sign for this house. These properties don't come on to the market very often so we were absolutely delighted. The house is listed, which means the external structure can't be altered, but we were able to renovate the inside. To link the kitchen with the outside, we positioned the island unit so it looks directly up the garden. Then we reinforced the connection between the interior and exterior by using the same flagstones for the terrace as those in the kitchen.

We both love fresh air, space and being in touch with nature so having a garden that's connected to the house is very important, especially to Peter. Before he retired from his job in the City he used to come home and, more often than not, go straight outdoors to unwind. Being in the garden is very grounding.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Originally, the long, narrow garden was filled with overgrown shrubs and acers, most of which were old and too big for the space. We removed all of them apart from three camellias. A real positive was the wonderful array of mature healthy trees – birch, alder, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, crab apple and, at the furthest end, a huge magnolia, all of which would form the framework of the new garden.

Overshadowed by so many trees, the garden was very dark, so gradually we've lifted the canopies to bring in light. As we are in a conservation area, all tree work had to be approved by the council.

The garden runs from east to west, so it has a sunny aspect; considering areas of shade and sun was vital in the planning. We inherited a long winding path, but we felt that a redesign based on rectangular beds and straight but staggered paths would better complement the architecture of the house. The new layout divides the garden into a series of interlinked areas. Each has its own



SEATING SPACE
Each area of the garden has a place to sit. Here, *Geranium Rozanne*, lavender and roses grow in the raised beds

A SPACE TO EXPLORE

Hilary and Peter have two dogs – Lyra, a Labrador, and Bella, their three-year-old Highland terrier, who both love to wander through the garden's interlinked areas



micro-climate in which we can grow a different set of plants, and a seating area so that at any time of day there's a choice of somewhere to sit in either sun or shade.

THE MATURING GARDEN

There are sofas on the terrace, as well as pots that are regularly swapped around to give colour and interest throughout the seasons. I grow flowers such as pelargoniums for their lovely aromatic leaves and soft fruit – blueberries and strawberries are real favourites, though more often than not our two dogs get to these before we do as they sniff out the ripe fruit.

Running along the sunny wall are raised beds planted with herbs, tomatoes and lettuces. A step up leads to a small rectangle of artificial lawn. We tried growing real grass but it was a disaster – the dogs ruined it. After a lot of persuasion we agreed to put down artificial grass and now we wouldn't have anything else.

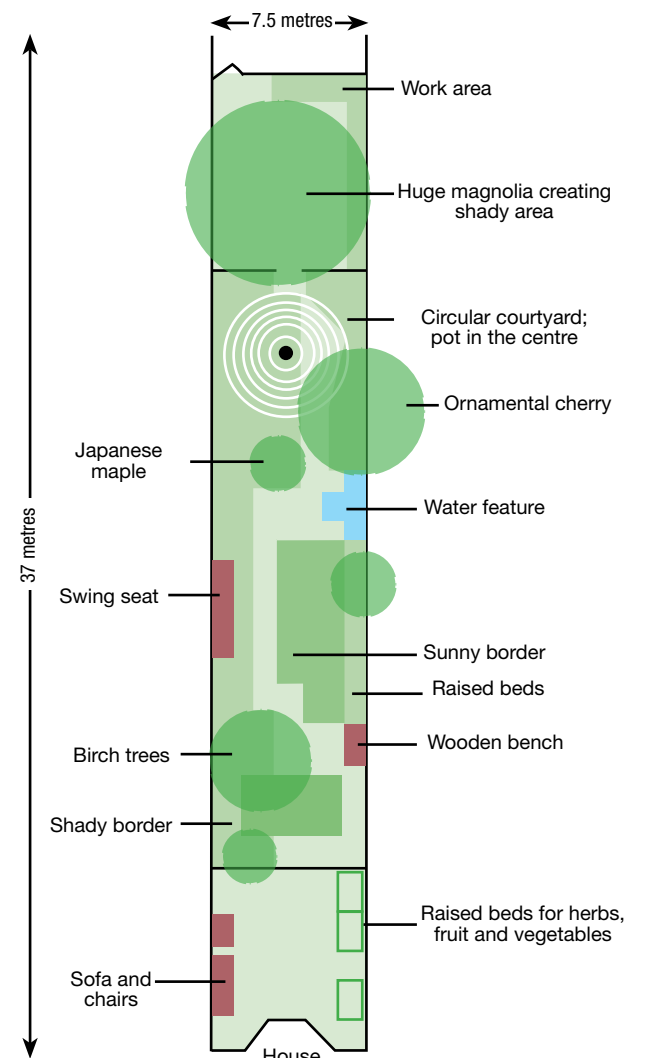
To the left of the lawn runs a border that finishes at silver birches. On one trunk is a ceramic face that's illuminated at night. Lighting completely changes the garden as it highlights key elements including the water feature and a purple-leaved ornamental cherry and red Japanese maple underplanted by shade-lovers such as foxgloves, hellebores, euphorbia, bleeding heart, aquilegia and brunnera. Our blind and deaf 13-year-old Labrador Lyra lumbers



CIRCULAR COURTYARD
The brick and gravel design is surrounded by shade-loving lamium and euphorbia

The layout

Dividing a long garden into sections creates interest



through the plants, so there's no point growing anything too precious. The garden walls are covered with beautiful clematis, roses, ivies, hydrangeas, honeysuckles and star jasmine, providing interest, fragrance and flowers by turn throughout the year.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Despite our best efforts, not everything has gone to plan during the garden's renovation. Beneath the maple tree is a water feature that's not been a total success because the water blows away, causing the pump to run dry. Redesigning this is our current project. And nearby there's a circular courtyard made from bricks and gravel, where we hoped to showcase a plant in season or a piece of sculpture. I wanted to add a meditative element by building a circular Labyrinth Walk, but there wasn't enough room. One of the main challenges of an urban garden is that you're always trying to maximise the space without making it feel crowded. When we cut away the lower tree branches to let in more light it also had the effect of making the whole garden feel more spacious.

We've also included a central sunny border with lots of flowering plants – alliums, irises, peonies, lavender, clematis and roses. I love having cut flowers when guests visit. The sunny border is where I experiment. In the early days I put in taller plants that ended up blocking the view, so I now keep the profile low. The soil is quite poor, but is steadily improving with regular doses of homemade compost. I think the best season is early summer when the garden is full of colour, smells and insects.

A lot of the ornaments in the garden are mementos from our travels so they have great sentimental value. I'm interested in shapes and marrying ornaments and hard landscaping with the planting, whereas Peter focuses on the plants and keeping the garden ticking over. It's a great partnership. **HB**

Create a flourishing urban garden

Careful planning and patience are needed to turn a city plot into an oasis full of greenery and wildlife



- * Agree the structure on day one: the more limited the space, the greater the need for imaginative design.
- * It's important to have the patience to allow ideas to develop, but be strong enough to discard them if they don't work.
- * Plants come and go and should be moved around to find their perfect spot and ideal soil conditions.
- * Where planting space is at a premium, use walls, fences and trellis to grow climbing plants up.
- * Choose small- to medium-sized trees that won't outgrow their allotted space, lifting their canopies to allow light and moisture to penetrate beneath.
- * Encourage wildlife, with berries and seedheads for birds, nectar-rich flowers for bees, and tucked-away piles of leaves as shelter for insects.
- * Seek inspiration – visit RHS shows throughout the year and get hold of the National Gardens Schemes' *The Yellow Book 2015* at ngs.org.uk. It lists all the private gardens you can visit under the NGS gardens open for charity scheme.

SUMMER ENTERTAINING

the Donna Hay way

She's made a career out of laid-back cooking. Now Donna Hay reveals how she brings that easygoing approach to her own life



Donna loves life at home to be casual. 'There's something about my kitchen being not completely hi-tech or modern or finished that makes it quite relaxing'

Donna Hay, the Australian domestic goddess who delivers perfection on a plate, has a confession to make. She leans forward, a smile in her eyes, to share her guilty secret: 'I try to grow my own herbs and I imagined I'd be really good at it, but I keep forgetting to water them. A few warm days and they're just gone.'

'I recently went to an organic market and saw this pot that had all these herbs growing out of it,' she pauses and smiles triumphantly. 'So I've got one and I'm determined there will be fresh herbs for everyone. It will change my life!'

In fact, since Donna first exploded onto the scene in the late nineties as an author, cook and TV presenter, it's everyone else's lives that have been changed. Her fresh, outdoor approach to food has transformed the way a whole generation of Australians cook and live. Meanwhile, her unique collaboration with Royal Doulton delivers unfussy but stunning designs for the table and kitchen.

It's hardly surprising to discover this 40-something working mother of two keeps food and entertaining as simple as possible. She says: 'I'm very relaxed when I cook at home. If I was as meticulous as I am at work, my friends and family would find it far too tense.'

'I've always based my recipes on fresh food, but I don't want to insist everyone has to grow their own vegetables in order to eat well. The whole grow-your-own thing is sometimes a little bit cruel if you don't have time, particularly if you're a busy working mother.'

Donna's latest cookbook, *The New Classics* (£30, Hardie Grant Books), features her trademark melt-in-the-mouth recipes – we've included some on the following pages. She says: 'The hardest thing was choosing which recipes to leave out of the book. It was like a reality show when you're letting contestants go.'

Donna shares a cliffside home near Bondi Beach in Sydney with sons Angus, 12, and Tom,

nine, and it is there in her open-plan kitchen with views stretching across the sea that Donna relaxes. She says: 'This is my calm place. The house is decorated with warm colours, neutrals, creams, soft greys and whitewashed woods. It's not sterile and it's definitely not perfect. My kitchen is on the ground floor as you walk into the house, and the bedrooms are downstairs. It's the original kitchen that came with the house and it needs renovating, but there's something about it being not completely hi-tech or modern or finished that makes it quite relaxing.

'I'm a great planner at work, but a terrible planner at home. My life is all about trying to find balance. I entertain all weekend, quite casually, and I see other people arrive in the house, walk into the kitchen, see the view and do the same as I do. They just breathe out and relax and wind down.'

Donna is one of three daughters and started cooking when she was eight – 'I asked Mum if I could cook on the weekends and she said "Absolutely, I'll clean up!"' – and now heads an empire that includes the *Donna Hay Magazine*, her own collection of cookware, as well as the Royal Doulton designs, and a range of easy cake mixes. For someone whose life is the creating, cooking and presentation of food, she's remarkably casual when it comes to her own cooking. 'My kitchen has a huge oven and cooktop and a big fridge with double doors so that I can easily slide in a long platter of salad. I don't have many gadgets. The only things out are a toaster, a KitchenAid and my mandolin for slicing fennel and carrot really thin.'

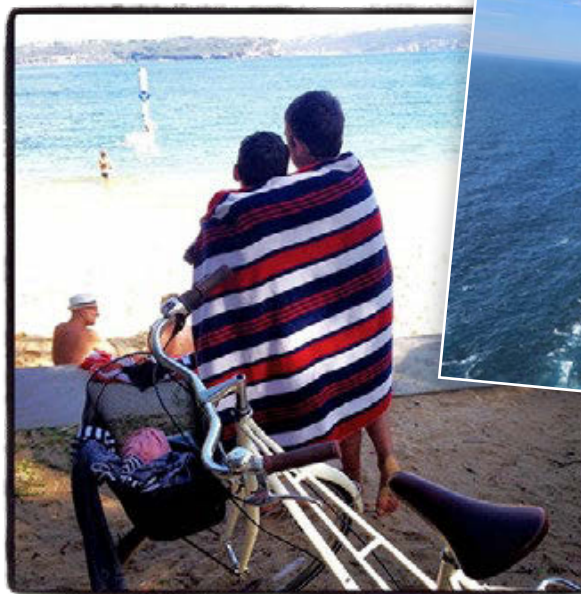
Built in 1980, Donna's home is very much of its time and the whole place needs fixing. 'Our deck needs replacing and our roof might fly off in the next storm,' she says. 'When it's really windy I sometimes lie there and think "Is this going to be the night?" But the house has a level of comfortableness about it, which is why I'm so reluctant to have anything done. It has to be a home.'

When she's there, Donna's priority is her two sons. She's divorced and the boys spend most of their time with her. 'My sons will cook if they want, but nothing laborious. They like things that are quick and they're great at rolling sushi. I have a rule that they must try different food and the little one is really adventurous.

'After they've done their homework they go out on their bikes. Our neighbourhood is like a fishing village from 30 years ago, where the kids can just rove around and all the mums and dads know where they live. If it's hot, we've got a pool with a slide. That slide and the bikes were the best investments I ever made because they play on them for hours and then at the end of the night I have these lovely little sun-kissed exhausted boys cuddling me on the couch.

'You can imagine it's very hard to leave home in the morning. But then I've been incredibly lucky to be able to turn my passion into a career. It doesn't feel like work to me – it feels like fun.'

● See Donna's delicious recipes overleaf



Clockwise from top left: Donna's sons at the beach; near her cliffside Sydney home; summer salad; hitting the surf; Donna's fresh and fruity dessert

DONNA'S GUIDE TO AN EASY GET-TOGETHER

1 Don't take on too much; just do a few things well. Try to have fresh leaves – whether it's a lettuce or baby spinach – and add lots of fresh herbs. I like mint and parsley, rosemary, lemon thyme and tarragon.

2 I love to make salads but whatever you've cooked, place it in a dish so your guests can help themselves. Put out a stack of plates and cutlery and let people graze over the food. You can even do this in winter with a smoked pork belly.

3 Everyone loves a simple potato salad but give it a seasonal twist by experimenting

with different flavours. I love mixing a coriander pesto with my potatoes for a really fresh summer taste.

4 Catering for children? The other day I had people over with their kids and I did my own burger bar – loading a table with salads, pickles and condiments and letting the little ones help themselves to a stack of burgers and create their own meal. They had so much fun!

5 When you're presenting your food, the beauty is in the curl of a leaf or the twist of a cucumber. Choose simple plates so they act as the canvas for the food.

SUPER LIGHT CLASSICS

Bank Holiday meals are made easy with these mouthwatering dishes from celebrated Australian author Donna Hay



Chilli-salt salmon noodles

SERVES 4

60ml kecap manis (a kind of sweet soy sauce)
2 cloves garlic, crushed
3cm piece (15g) fresh ginger, peeled and finely grated
125ml water
1tbsp dried chilli flakes

1tbsp sea-salt flakes
4 x 180g salmon fillets, skin removed
1tbsp vegetable oil
200g Swiss brown mushrooms, halved
200g dried flat rice noodles, cooked
50g coriander leaves

1 Place the kecap manis, garlic, ginger and water in a bowl and mix to combine. Set aside.
2 Place the chilli flakes and salt on a tray and mix to combine. Press both sides of the salmon into the chilli salt to coat. Slice each fillet into 1cm-thick pieces.
3 Heat the oil in a large wok or nonstick frying pan over high

heat. Add the salmon and cook, in batches, for 1min each side. Remove from the pan and set aside. Add the mushrooms and cook for 2min. Add the sauce and cook for 4min or until the mushrooms are tender.
4 Top the noodles with the salmon, mushrooms and coriander to serve.

Spring pea and mint risotto

SERVES 4

100g mint, leaves picked and roughly chopped
1tsp sea-salt flakes
1tbsp olive oil
75g unsalted butter, chopped
1 brown onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
80ml dry white wine
400g arborio rice
1.5L hot chicken stock

40g finely grated parmesan
240g fresh or frozen peas, thawed
200g sugar-snap peas, trimmed, blanched and halved
Sea salt and cracked black pepper
Crème fraîche and mangetout tendrils, to serve

1 Place the mint and salt in a mortar and pestle and pound until a rough paste forms. Add oil, stir and set aside.
2 Melt 25g butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, for 4-5min or until softened. Add the wine and cook for 2min.
3 Add the rice and cook,

stirring, for 1-2min. Add the chicken stock, about 250ml at a time, adding more once absorbed, and cook, stirring, for 20-25min or until the rice is al dente. Remove from the heat and stir through the remaining ingredients.

4 Top with the crème fraîche and tendrils to serve.

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Traditional quiche

SERVES 4

300g plain flour
1tsp sea-salt flakes
150g cold unsalted butter,
chopped
1 egg, lightly beaten
1tbsp cold milk
FOR THE FILLING
1tbsp olive oil
1 large brown onion, cut into
thin wedges
200g bacon, rind removed and
thinly sliced
1tbsp thyme leaves
3 eggs
80ml single cream

60ml milk
25g finely grated gruyère
Sea salt and cracked black
pepper

1 Place the flour, salt and butter in a food processor and process for 1min or until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg and milk and process until a smooth dough forms.

2 Flatten the dough into a disc shape, cover in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30min. Roll the dough out between two

sheets of nonstick baking paper to 4mm thick. Line a lightly greased 22cm loose-bottomed, fluted tart tin with the pastry and refrigerate for 30min.

3 Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan/gas mark 6). Trim the edges of the pastry and prick the base with a fork. Line with nonstick baking paper and fill with baking beans. Bake for 15min, remove paper and beans and bake for a further 10-15min or until the pastry is light golden. Set aside.

4 Reduce oven temperature to 180°C (160°C fan/gas mark 4). To

make the filling, heat the oil in a large, nonstick frying pan over high heat. Add the onion and bacon and cook, stirring occasionally, for 8-10min or until golden. Remove from the heat, stir through the thyme and set aside.

5 Place the eggs, cream, milk, cheese, salt and pepper in a bowl and whisk to combine. Spoon the onion mixture into the tart shell and pour over the egg mixture. Bake for 25-30min or until set and golden. Allow to rest for 10min before serving.

COOK'S NOTE

* Chilling the dough will help prevent shrinkage while baking. Always keep your dough well covered in plastic wrap while it's resting in the fridge; this will help stop it from drying out.



COOK'S NOTE

* Taleggio is a pale, creamy cheese available from most delicatessens and large supermarkets.

The new steak sandwich

MAKES 4

20g unsalted butter
12 large Portobello mushrooms
8 slices sourdough bread
Olive oil, for brushing
4 x 100g scotch fillet steaks
160g taleggio, sliced (see Cook's Note)
50g watercress sprigs
FOR THE ROSEMARY AND PORCINI SALT
1tbsp dried porcini mushrooms
1tbsp chopped rosemary leaves

2tbsp sea-salt flakes
FOR THE HORSE RADISH MAYONNAISE
100g whole-egg mayonnaise
2tbsp horseradish cream

1 To make the rosemary and porcini salt, place the porcini and rosemary in a small food processor and process until finely chopped. Add the salt and process until just combined. Set aside.

2 To make the horseradish mayonnaise, place mayonnaise and horseradish cream in a bowl and mix. Set aside.

3 Melt the butter in a char-grill pan over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and cook for 6-8min or until tender. Remove from the pan and set aside.

4 Brush the bread with oil and cook for 2min each side or until golden. Set aside.

5 Brush steaks with oil, sprinkle

with half the rosemary and porcini salt and cook for 1min. Turn steaks over, top with the taleggio and cook for a further 3-4min, until cheese is melted. **6** Spread half the bread slices with the mayonnaise and top with the steaks, mushrooms and watercress. Top with the remaining bread slices and serve with the remaining rosemary and porcini salt.

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What you smell

What your
guests smell



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light, fresh scent.



Breathe Happy

Haloumi-crumbed lamb cutlets with tzatziki

SERVES 4-6

9 slices white bread
15g bag oregano, leaves picked
65g finely grated haloumi
Sea salt and cracked black pepper
12 x 70g lamb cutlets, trimmed
40g plain flour
2 eggs, lightly whisked
80ml olive oil
120g pitted black olives
400g cherry tomatoes, halved

50g flat-leaf parsley leaves

1tbsp lemon juice

FOR THE TZATZIKI

2 medium cucumbers, grated

300g thick (natural) Greek-style yogurt

2tbsp lemon juice

1 clove garlic, crushed

1 To make the tzatziki, place the cucumber, yogurt, lemon juice and garlic in a small bowl

and mix until well combined.

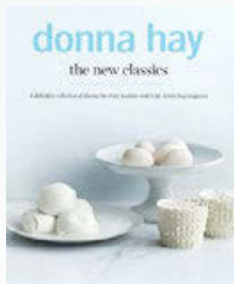
Set the mixture aside.

2 Place the bread in the bowl of a food processor and process until roughly chopped. Place the breadcrumbs in a bowl with the oregano, haloumi, salt and pepper and mix until well combined.

3 Press the lamb cutlets into the flour, dip into the egg and press into the breadcrumb

mixture. Heat half the oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Cook the lamb for 3-4min each side for medium-rare or until golden and cooked to your liking.

4 Place the olives, halved tomatoes, parsley, remaining oil and lemon juice in a bowl and toss to combine. Serve the lamb with the tomato salad and tzatziki. **HB**



All of the recipes used here are taken from *The New Classics* by Donna Hay (Hardie Grant Books, £30)

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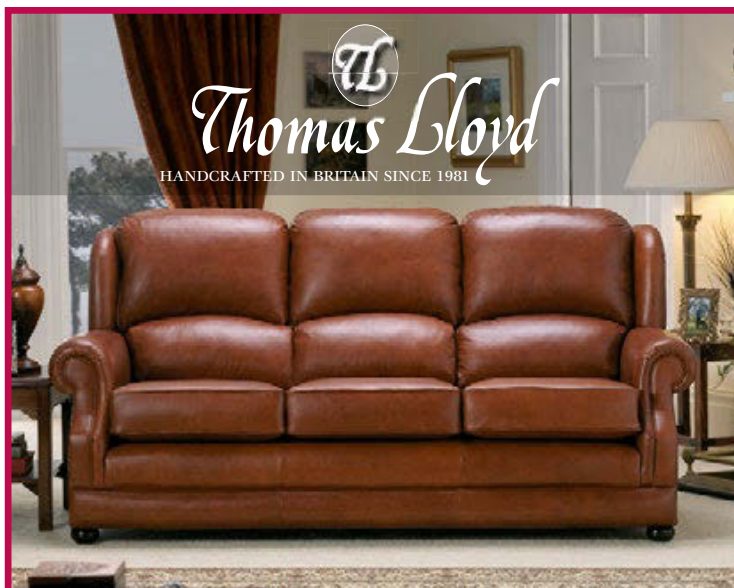
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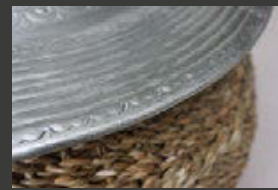
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REIKO KANEKO

A childhood in Japan and a move to the pottery heartland of Stoke-on-Trent mean ceramics designer Reiko, 32, combines East and West in the mill she now calls home



WHERE I LIVE

When I moved to Stoke-on-Trent from London in June 2012, I didn't know what to expect. I'd been raised on a farm in Japan until the age of eight, went to art college in London and suddenly I was in a self-imposed exile in the pottery homeland of Stoke. I'd moved to be closer to the potteries producing my designs.

I wanted somewhere quirky to live and I found an old flint mill up for rent. It sat beside a small farm, up a tiny road, through a farm gate and over a bridge with a little stream bubbling underneath. I loved its open-plan feel, which reminded me of my childhood home in Japan where we believe that family life is best lived together.

When you walk through the front door there are sofas and chairs to the left and an open-plan kitchen on the right. It's a great area to cook and entertain in or pace up and down as I search for new inspiration!

There's not much furniture because I didn't want to fill up the clean, minimal space. Each piece I have is chosen very slowly so it really has to earn its place.

I don't have a television. Instead, I play music, read or cook. It's solitary, but amid these creaking beams and with the sound of farm animals outside, I never feel alone.

MY INSPIRATION

The farmhouse where I grew up in Koriyama was built by my father Naochika. In Japan, building your own home is far more common than it is here. Our house was light, open-plan and filled with steel furniture, because my father loved that modern style. He was a scientist and had an incredible creative flair, which is where I inherit my love of ideas. He passed away in 1989, but was a huge influence on my life and still is.

My mother is from North Yorkshire and moved to Japan after studying Japanese in the late sixties, and I've kept a mixture of Japanese and English influences in my home. One of my favourite possessions is a hibachi, a Japanese heating device, which is a metal box sitting inside a decorative wooden box. You put charcoal inside and boil a little kettle on top while the whole family sits around for warmth. I have a glass lid on mine, and use it as a coffee table.

As a child, I was taught that you never present food in a slapdash way. The food



From top left: Koriyama in Japan where Reiko grew up; her award-winning Rin pottery; the open-plan living space in her Stoke-on-Trent flint mill (left)

should go well with the colour of the plate – so an egg omelette, for instance, would be presented on a blue plate. The contrast in colour adds to the pleasure of seeing the food beautifully presented. This is where my love of ceramics grew, and my own collection of original glassware and china from Japan is dotted around my home.

HOME LIFE

I'm very close to my mother. She moved back to Britain from Japan recently and I'm enjoying having her as a regular visitor. I love cooking, but it's a treat to sit back when I'm exhausted from work and enjoy one of her famous roast dinners.

I have two brothers – the elder one is Takeshi and the younger one is Hidetomo, but we call him Tom. We are all very close. They came to visit recently with my two nieces and my nephew, and this old flint mill was suddenly filled with screams and laughter. We were enjoying a traditional Japanese way of open-plan living in an old English mill beside a farmhouse. I drank green tea in memory of my Japanese grandmother – who always swore by her favourite drink – and counted my blessings.

● **Reiko won the House Beautiful Gold Award for Best Tableware or Cookware for her Rin Collection of Bowls.** See her full collection at reikokaneko.co.uk **HB**

Left: A treasured photo of Reiko, her parents and her two brothers
Below: Reiko's bedroom is an oasis of calm



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